

Pushing Back the Darkness!

Part 11: "Voluntary Service and Service Rewards!"

Previously on PBD... Looked at the two most important God-ordained relationships on earth! ***Spiritual leaders and the people they are called to aid!*** "Repair and outfit the saints for the work of their ministry... for the building of the Body of Christ until we all come to the holiness of the truth and maturity!" **Eph 4** *And it's why we have so many blow-outs of spiritual leadership!* Must stop them from coming into maturity and ministry! ***Husbands and wives (and family)!*** "In our likeness, they have dominion over the earth!" **Gen 1** NT: "Overseers, husbands of one wife, ruling well his own house, children submitted, being respect-worthy!" **1Tim3.2-4,12** And it's why we have so much strife, divorce and co-habitation! If an enemy wants to rule he must break up the rulers/keep them from maturing!

Then the assault on our witness and our intimacy with God! Offenses, distractions all go to work against us to keep us from testifying to God's greatness! **"The callousness of sin, the lack of development, a delicate and easily shockable life, offenses, the distractions and anxieties of the world, delusions of wealth and the over-longings for other(s) things... all these make people unfruitful!"** –Jesus Temptations and "testings" of our determination to remain in touch!

In all cases demolishing arguments and computations we've made, as our submission to Jesus... Affirming God's word(s) and realigning ourselves to live by faith, not according to our own perceptions, inner vows... So that we can effectively and aggressively rend the darkness around us in our warfare for the souls of mankind... because...

"People whose minds are made up to advance the kingdom of God take their objectives by force..." – Jesus Mt 11.12

So, hear, we are... With all-important "activation/ realignment" exercises... "Lord, is this the way You...?" Learning how to hear God... Opening the door for Him to step into your life... **KAIROS: A moment of time with God... In the CHRONOS, chronology of our lifetimes...**

Kairos designates a pregnant or opportune "special" time. *Kairos* is somewhat *opposed* to *chronos*, which signifies day-to-day time in general. *Chronos* is the quotidian, the recurrent, the passing of the years, while *kairos* is the moment, the event, the suspension of the normal.

Chronos... is a false god, an *IDOL*, like Mammon, harsh taskmaster! Never enough, never satisfied, always hungering for more! It ravages all things as it passes, and ends with death! It doesn't heal all wounds, God heals wounds, Time covers them! Suppressing them as invisible chains against growth/freedom! *Many of us have been "held captive" by time!* The past consuming the future...

Kairos... Is God stepping in to our lives to stop, interpret, time(s)! Stopping the progression, *the running*, of time to hear His voice! Be redirected by His commands... Live life with hope and a future! Showing us how to see and redeem the times that have been evil... How to be renewed in time! **BUT TO WHAT END?**

"It was for freedom that Christ has set us free!"

Freedom! You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free! **J8.32** If the Son makes you free, *you will be free without a doubt.* **J8.36** Being made free from sin, *you became the servants of righteousness.* **Rom 6.18** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, *and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.* **Gal 5.1** Don't use your freedom as a license for evil; *but live as servants of God.* **1Pet 2.15** Being made free from sin and becoming servants to God, *you have your fruit for holiness*, and the end everlasting life. **Rom 6.22** Free from all, *I have made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.* **1Cor9.19** As a new creature He has given us *the ministry of reconciliation!* **2Cor 5.17,18**

"It was for freedom that Christ has set us free!"

So what happens if we are free but we aren't showing up to free?

What about "Our voluntary rending of the kingdom of darkness!"

Widgets... "If you want some people to have widgets, you make widgets, 50-100 at a time and you sell widgets. But if you want the whole world to have widgets, you don't make widgets, you build factories, that make widgets..." –Joe Wittwer

"Widgets" for the world... God issued a "Widget for the World" mandate! God desires that all men be saved and that none perish! **Mark 16.15 1Tim2.4 Matt 18.14 John 3.15 2Pet 3.9** He left the design for factories to produce people and deliver product to the entire world! Churches had peace **A9.31**, were confirmed **15.41**, established in faith and increased **16.5**, saluted one another, collected offerings, had customs, and pastors and overseers and servers!

Aside from those "appointed" for the sake and care of the "factories..." **1Cor 9.14, Gal 6.6, 1Tim5.17, cp 2Cor 11.7-9** The "church" runs on **voluntary: service done willingly, without constraint, without expectation of rewards, volunteers! Whose willing, and "cheerful," service is rewarded...**

Rewards... Reaping and receiving wages, gathering eternal fruit, rejoicing together with others who labor! **John 4.36-38** Receiving rewards according to our works with God, taking heed to build on our foundation with work that will stand the test of fire for reward! **1Cor 3.8-15** Abound in your work knowing it is never in vain in the Lord! **1Cor 15.58** What is our hope, joy, crown of glorying? It is you in the presence of the Lord at His coming! **1Thess 2.19** If there is consolation in Christ... it is you blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, shining as lights in the world, holding up the word of life... that's my rejoicing in the day of Christ, proof that I have not run or labored in vain! **Phil 2.1-16** Care for the flock of God, taking oversight of them not by constraint or for money sake but with by a willing mind; not as lords over them but as one of them, and when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive a crown of glory that will never fade away! **1Peter 2.2-4** And the teachers will shine and those who turn people to God will be stars forever and ever! **Daniel 12.3** The kingdom of God is like a man who left his business with his servants and came again to settle up... he said to the ones who did well... "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I am making you a ruler over much more, enter into the joy of the Lord! **Matt 25.14-23** God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have showed toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints and continue to do so, and we desire that every one of you shows the same diligence to the full assurance of hope to the end that you would not be lazy but followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises of the blessing! **Heb 6.10-14**

We have been given "a factory" to produce builders of the kingdom of heaven...

We cannot become weary or distracted, distressed or selfish in "well doing!"

We must be people whose minds are made up to take our objectives by force!