

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2Cor 11:1-3 - *the simplicity & purity of devotion to Christ*. Not preach mere morality, but character & conduct of citizens of Christ's kingdom.
2. Lk 6:20 Jesus looks at us & begins to speak: *I say to you who hear* [v27].

1st: The Contrasting Blessings and Woes - Lk 6:20-26

1. The beatitudes in Mat 5 & Lk 6. Matthew: explicitly "spiritual". Luke contrasts blessings & woes - 2 kinds of people living in 2 different ages.
2. 2 Kinds of people - the Blessed and the Cursed [woe].
3. 2 Ages - "already & the not yet" - present & future. Kingdom inversion.

2nd: The Eschatological Essence of the Kingdom Blessings and Curses

1. The prevailing expectation in Jesus' day: revived Solomonian kingdom.
2. How would people in Jesus' day, hear blessings & woes?
 - i. OCov blessings & curses: Mtn Gerizim & Ebal. Deut 27
 - a. curses for idolatry - sins of paganism [27:15-26]
 - b. blessings for cov fidelity - 28:2-8 fruitful flourishing
 - OC. curses [v15-68] - 28:15-20 curses for next 48 vss!.
 - ii. Expected fulfillment of promises in terms of OCov - not NCov.
3. Flaw: to confine "kingdom" to this age. Note *now* wh/ implies "then".
 - i. v21, v25 - contrast bless & curse; also the *now* & the future.
4. The King, kingdom, & royal sons of Most High [v35] are not of this age.

3rd: What are Kingdom Blessings?

1. Recent study of *blessing*: 1] Lk 24:47; 2] Lk 24:51. Life lived w/ God.
 - i. God blessed 1st couple [Gn 1:28] & Sabbath [Gn 2:3]
 - ii. Kingdom blessing now given in provisions of redemption [seed, sacrifice, Sabbath, soil] - Gn 12:1-3 *bless* [5x] & *curse* [2x].
 - iii. *Blessing* is bestowed by priest - [Num 6:24-27]
2. Jesus ascends to throne - Rv 5:11-14 *blessing* from Lamb: LIFE.
3. *Blessing* = inclusio of Rv - 1:3 & 22:7. v14 the blessed given tree of LIFE

4th: What are Kingdom Woes?

1. What then is *woe* ["ou-aye" onomatopoeia] exclamation of the damned experiencing wrath of God.
 - i. Eyeball [Isa 5] - judgment on fruitless Israel - *woes* [vss 8ff - v25] = context of Isa 6:5 *woe is me, I am ruined: a man of unclean lips*
 - ii. Woes of Hab 2:4 - pride // faith. 5 taunt- songs [v6, 9, 12, 15, 19]
 - iii. Woes - Mat 23 - Jesus denounces pride - v12 -> 8 *woes* in vss 18-29.
 - iv. In cycle of 7 trumpets: Rv 8 - an eagle - v13 *woe, woe, woe*
 - a. Isa's seraphim - *holy, holy, holy* - Jn's eagle - *woe, woe, woe*
 - b. Woes -> Fall of Babylon - Rv 18:10 [v16,19]. Harlot [apostate Xnty] contrasted in Rev w/ Christ's Bride [true church]
 - 1) v2-3 - seduction by religious immorality & sensuality
 - 2) v4 - summons: escape impending wrath on Babylon
2. If blessing = LIFE, then woe = death. Rv 20
 - i. v6a-b the blessed are those over whom *the 2nd death* has no power
 - ii. v11-14 2nd death = eternity in lake of fire [2Thes 1:9]

Applic #1: Do Not Empty Christ's Kingdom of Its Eschatological Essence

1. Elder is to teach truth & refute error [Tit 1:9]. Need balanced discernment.
2. Discern genuine resurrection life already being lived but not yet in glorified resurrected body. Rm 6 - Xnty is defined by Jesus' resurrection & Xn life is lived in power of HS, nourished by means of grace.
3. OTOH: over-realized eschat - emph on not-yet. Diminishes goodness of Creation & realities of Fall [asceticism, Gnostic: holiness = monasticism]
4. OTOH: under-realized eschat - emph on already. Christianize politics, moralisms - severed from 1st Table of Law - social utopia.
5. Beware of "Xnities" wh/ are not explicitly joined to the resurrected Jesus.
6. Be discerning - any "Xnty" which is not self-consciously united to & proclaiming the gospel of the resurrected Lord Jesus, is not biblical.
7. As sons of God Most High - on battlefield - employ strategy of King Jesus: the strategy of gospel love.