

Kingdom thoughts

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

BMI Devotional October 2015

What are we to do?

The excuse for the lack of *Kingdom Thoughts* is that time is passing much more quickly than imagined. I would like to spend some of that fast-passing time exploring our response to the ever-increasing corruption that appears to surround us in today's world.

We will have all noticed that the powers of darkness are busy at work corrupting every nation and their agents seem to have gained control of our nation. What are we to do in the face of the wave of terrorism? The continuing evil of abortion? The confusion of issues surrounding sexual preferences — or, should one suggest, sexual sin? These and many other issues have become quite overwhelming for many of us and it is easy for panic to set in and for us to react without considering the wider picture. Reaction is most often emotional and seldom helpful.

So what might be some other responses to this situation? Let us examine three options.

1. **Get out there and do something.** Tell these people where it is at. 'God is going to judge you, wicked people!' may be our war-cry. Whilst this may be true, it may not constitute the best approach because it usually arises from human indignation. We should carefully and wisely ponder this response, lest we respond from our own emotions, rather than being directed by the Holy Spirit. Alternatively, this may be the stirring of the Holy Spirit — but it must always pass the test of being outworked in obedience to God and being consistent with His word to us.

There are a large number of people and ministries working to defend and enhance God's kingdom. I trust they are listening to the Lord for His direction — for without that assurance we can spend inordinate effort pursuing a course of action that God has not actually endorsed.

2. **This is another sign of the end — let's hope it gets worse so that Jesus can return.** The main problem with this approach is that people have been expecting Jesus' return for two thousand years with no apparent result. Many Christians believe in the imminent return of Christ — but consider this: even if we do choose to believe in His imminent return, it is not going to help the situation in which we find ourselves. Waiting around in a 'holding pattern' is not consistent with God's directive to us to live abundant and purposeful lives for His glory.
3. **God has been in control throughout history and is still in control today.** This is the foundation from which Christians are to live their lives. Armed with this truth we can begin by asking a few questions: What has happened historically? Have we ever seen societies and empires in the same situation we find ourselves today? Can we discern a pattern that will allow us to prepare for the days that are coming? It could be that we are part of God's kingdom here on earth and have a privilege and responsibility of seeing His kingdom come.

Because of space limitations I would like to return to give further attention to the third point in the next issue, without discounting the first two points.

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