4/9/24: God’s Kingdom Law and the kingdom of darkness world system presented by The Ministry of YOU

Our Lord Jesus Christ turned an argument among His disciples into a teaching moment. The Lord was so good at doing that with His disciples. He was continually teaching them the distinction between the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. He wanted them to understand the same way He wants us to understand these kingdoms are diametrically opposed to one another. This account is in the NLT Luke 22:24-26; Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, “In this world (world system) the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ But among you it will be different. Those who are greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course, But not here! For I Am among you as One Who serves.

The Lord Jesus, the Teacher, understood that they have been living in the world (world system) in the kingdom of darkness. They didn’t yet know and completely understand Jesus was ushering in a New Covenant with a New Law. The Kingdom of God and the Law of His Kingdom is Love (Agape). We can see references to this Law in the epistles of James and Paul. NLT James 2:8; Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the Royal Law as found in the Scriptures; “Love your neighbor as yourself.” In addition, the reference by the Apostle Paul in the NLT Romans 13:9-10; If you Love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s Law. For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These and other such commandments are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to others, so Love fulfills the requirements of God’s Law.

The Lord Jesus wanted it to be crystal clear as He stated, “But among you it will be different.” Let’s make this as clear as we can by looking even closer at the word, “different” which is defined in the Merriam and Webster dictionary as; totally unlike in nature, form, or quality: not the same. For an even better understanding here are some synonyms for the word different: distinct, distinctive, dissimilar, distinguishable, unalike, and diverse to name a few. The Lord Jesus was already teaching His disciples about the New Covenant and how they would be distinguished or separated from the world (world system). NLT John 13:34-35; So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I Loved you, you should Love each other. Your Love for one another will prove to the world (world system) that you are My disciples.

So, the Lord Jesus has made it very clear for all of us to understand we are supposed to be different because we moved or relocated to a different kingdom now! AMPC Colossians 1:12-14; Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God’s holy people) in the Light. (The Father) has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His Love, in Whom we have our redemption through His Blood, (which means) the forgiveness of our sins. The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul wanted to make sure we all clearly understood we moved from darkness to Light! The word, “transfer” is defined as; to convey from one person, place, or situation to another, to cause to pass from one to another, to move to a different place, region, or situation. Anyone who is in Christ Jesus is different from the world (world system) now! NLT 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Either way, Christ’s Love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves (flesh or carnal life). Instead, they will live for Christ (life in the Spirit), Who died and was raised for them. So, we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view (world system). At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view (world system). How differently we know Him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; new life has begun!

As I am continuing to mediate and study Brother Kenneth Hagin’s book, “Love: The Way to Victory” in obedience to the Holy Spirit I am being reminded of the importance of continually retraining myself to think in line with God, Who is Love! Which is renewing my mind to the Godkind of Love (Agape). Brother Hagins gives the body of Christ an important reminder about the subject of the Royal Law of Love in his book. “We need to get our minds renewed with the Love of God! The Body of Christ hasn’t really renewed their minds to the Godkind of Love as we should have. But the Bible has much to say about renewing the mind. We will have to renew our minds if we’re going to walk in Love toward others. You see, so many times, instead of accepting our responsibility as Christians, we want God to do all the work in our spiritual growth and development. We expect Him to supply more of something that He has already provided, when really, it’s our responsibility to see to it that we develop our Love so it can grow and increase.” There you have it from Dad Hagin! This is why my Love walk is so important to me and I spend the majority of my time working on it with my Helper and Teacher the Holy Spirit within!

There is an unfortunate reality that we need to stay mindful of, so we don’t allow ourselves to slip back into old ways. NLT 2 Corinthians 4: 3-4; If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. The devil, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds (thinking) of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, Who is the exact likeness of God. The devil is the god of this world, a title which he stole from Adam and Eve. Even though, through the finished work of Jesus Christ the devil has been stripped of all authority and power, and his works destroyed; he is referred to as the god of this world system that operates under the curse. NLT 1 John 3:8; But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

John speaks of this world system and the works of the devil in 1 John 2:15-17; Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. We are going to examine two things here in these verses of Scripture. First, we are going to make the distinction between the love in the world and the Godkind of Love (Agape). Secondly, we will look at the world’s system.

The love that is of the world, which is human love, it is the Greek word agapao (ag-ap-ah’-po) which means of persons. There is a distinction being made between these two words for love. God’s Love is the Greek word agape (ag-ah’-pay) which means affection, good will, benevolence, brotherly Love, charity. In addition, it explains the world system. The word world is the Greek word kosmos (kos’-mos) and it means the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family, the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ, world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly, the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ.

Now, let’s read the same verses of Scripture in the NLT. “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you don’t have the Love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

The book of beginnings Gensis gives us some very keen insight into the character of our enemy, the devil. AMPC Genesis 3:1; Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field that God made. The Apostle Paul also gives some keen insight into the devil. AMPC Ephesians 6:11; Put on God’s whole Armor (the armor of a heavy-armed solider which God supplies), that you may be able successfully to stand up against (all) the strategies and the deceits of the devil. The enemy uses the power of influence or suggestion. This is all he can do since he has been stripped of authority and power by Jesus Christ. The word “influence” is defined as; the act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command. Some synonyms of the word “influence” are sway, impress, leverage, impact, and reach to name a few.

The devil attempts to appeal to our carnal nature. It was successful for him in the beginning with Adam and Eve. So, he continues to use this same deceit and strategy. He appeals to the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. We are instructed in the Word of God to stand against his evil influence equipped with the whole Armor of God. The Armor of God protects our mind if we will utilize it! The devil fires flaming missiles at our mind (thoughts) according to the Word of God. AMPC Ephesians 6:16; Lift up over all the (covering) shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked (one).

In our minds, our Heavenly Father has given us an advantage in our God-design over our enemy. He created us in His Image with a unique multifaceted nature that allows us to assess our thoughts and their impact and choose (autonomy). He has given us a multiple-perspective advantage. In other words, we can clearly see the strategy of the devil and how he’s trying to deceive and influence us, versus the Plan of God and all the great things He has in store for us, and then choose one or the other. AMPC Jeremiah 29:11; For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

I want to close this lesson with the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ on His teaching of Agape. NLT Matthew 5:43-48; You have heard the law that says, “Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you (phileo, human love), what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. The word “perfect” in this verse of Scripture is the Greek word teleios (tel’-i-os), which means brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness, consummate human integrity, and virtue, full grown, adult, of full age, mature. We are to be complete as our Father in heaven is Complete!