

November 23-24, 2024

Title: Relief Weekend: "Kingdom of Light...Kingdom of Love" – Colossians 1:12-14

Read Colossians 1:12-14.

What in the message stood out to you? What questions do you have?

1. A Kingdom that Lasts Forever.

John Piper describes the Kingdom of God in this way: "The basic meaning of the word kingdom in the Bible is God's kingly rule — his reign, his action, his lordship, his sovereign governance." How might this reality inspire you to worship God?

Read Psalm 103:19. What does it mean that "His Kingdom rules over all?" How do you make sense of this when it comes to bad things that happen in the world?

Dan talked about the Kingdom of God as being "already...but not yet". What does this mean, and how might it affect our expectations of current life in this fallen world?

2. A Kingdom of Light and Love.

Read Colossians 1:12-14 again. Colossians 1:12-14 describes believers as being "transferred from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of His beloved Son." What did God use to reveal your need for Him? In what ways did you realize you were in darkness before you came to Christ?

Read John 8:12. In what ways is Jesus the light of the world? What do you think it means to walk in darkness? What does it mean to have the "light of life?"

Dan gave an illustration of how people in a refugee camp were impacted by the "light" and "love" of Jesus as seen in Christian workers. How have experienced something similar in your life? In a similar way, how might we shine Christ more clearly to those around us?

3. A Kingdom Message that Reaches the World.

In Matthew 13:44 Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to treasure that is found in a field. What was the point of Jesus' word picture? In what ways does this challenge your walk with Christ?

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Based on this passage, what is the mission that corresponds to the authority and Kingdom of Jesus?

Dan said this as one of his closing statements: "We are "on mission" with Jesus, joining Him as He accomplishes the Father's mandate of gathering people from every tongue, tribe, people and nation, to enjoy His presence forever." In what ways might this seem daunting for the average Christian? How might it become intensely practical?

“Next Steps” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - What is one way that you can submit more to the rule of God in some area of your life.
- With Others:
 - What is something that you are thankful for from the past year of your life? Share it with your group and spend some time thanking God for the light and love of His rule in providing it.
- On Mission:
 - Pray for an unbeliever in your life and identify one practical way that you can invest in that relationship.