

Church of God

# The Biblical Grandview

Purpose | And a Call to Go On

## Purpose | And a Call to Go On

I find myself thanking God every day that He did not give up on me, that He was patient with me, and He did not give up and say, “Not worth the effort. He is not paying any attention.” I thank Him every day.

And you know what? Every one of us should do that. Be thankful for what God has given us. Be thankful for the calling He has given us. He has given us life. He has given us purpose. He has given us beauty instead of ashes. And I mean literally ashes, because you and I are faced with the choice in this life now.

We talk about the people in the Millennium and their time is then. Your and my time is now. Judgment is now on the house of God. God has given you and me everything that He will give to the people of the Millennium. We know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. We know that He loves us. We know that He wants us to be in His Kingdom. He has given us His Spirit.

If we have truly repented, and we come before Him and are baptized, have hands laid on us, His Holy Spirit—He gives us the truth. His Spirit leads us into truth. He has put us in a body. We can be with each other. We can encourage each other. We have to develop that. It has to happen through His temple on earth today, through His Church. That is the only way.

Our time is now. If we take it for granted, if we water things down, if we are not paying attention to every word that God said, and if our lives are not becoming closer and closer to God with each and every passing year, you know what is in store for us? It is either life or death in the resurrection.

God is not going to have people in His Kingdom that He is not absolutely sure where their hearts are, that He is not absolutely sure what they will teach others by their examples. We show God what we are and who we are by the way we live our lives today.

What choices do we make? What do we justify? How much of God’s Word do we really pay attention to? Are we really getting closer and closer to what God would have us be? Because the time is getting shorter and shorter.

The Kingdom of Heaven, Christ said two thousand years ago, is at hand. Today, it is at hand a little more than it was a year ago, certainly more than two or three years ago. Only God knows when Jesus Christ returns. But when He returns, you and I will be judged.

What did we do with the gifts He gave us? What did we do with the Spirit He put in us? What did we do with the truth that He taught us? Will He look down and say, “Yes, I can trust this person to teach My way and to lead the people in the Millennium in exactly the way that I want him to”?

Turn with me to 1 John 3:3. Do you have the hope of the Kingdom? Do I have the hope of the Kingdom? Is this just a nice story and something that we do, or do we realize this is the time that we look to God and ask God to mold us into who He wants us to be?

1 John 3:2: “Beloved, now we are children of God.” He sees us as His children. He has put His Holy Spirit in us.

It is certain, absolutely certain, that in the Millennium the world will become a veritable Garden of Eden. What is not certain yet is that you and I will be there. It is certain that God wants us there. It is certain that He does, and He gives us everything and every opportunity to do it. But it is not certain because that certainty is up to us. What do we do with what we are given?

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

And everyone who has this hope in Him—if we have that hope, if we have caught the vision of what the Kingdom will be like: beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, Jesus Christ as Savior—if we have caught that vision, and if that motivates us, and it should motivate us, everyone who has this hope in Him, what does he do? He purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Pure truth. Living it the way God called us to live it. Living it just the way that Jesus Christ did and set the example for us.

Turn with me to Revelation 14. You and I, God has called His firstfruits. We can go back to the Feast of Pentecost. We talk about firstfruits, what God has called us to be. This is our time. This is our day of salvation.

When you look at the firstfruits, who you and I are, if we look down in verse 4, it tells us what firstfruits do, what they become—not instantaneously at baptism, but growing ever and ever closer to God as the time goes on.

Revelation 14:4: “These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.”

Wherever. Complete faith in Him. If it is what we would consider dangerous, complete faith in Him to see us through whatever trial, whatever comes our way. They follow Him wherever He goes.

“These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.”

“And in their mouth was found no deceit.” No falsehood. These are people of pure truth. These are people in whom all that falsehood is gone.

In the Millennium, Satan is bound—the father of lies, the father of all half-truths, the father of compromise, the father of hypocrisy, the father of politics and what we can do to get ourselves ahead rather than completely yielding to God. All that is gone.

And that is what He says of the firstfruits: no more game playing, being serious about what God called us to. “In their mouth was found no guile.” No deceit. No falsehood. They are people of truth, people of truth, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

I do not know about you, but I have a ways to go before I can say that about me. I think we have some work to do between now and the time that Jesus Christ returns, when He decides: Can I become a king and priest under Him? Can He have absolute faith that I will teach His way in the way that He wanted taught? Does He see that in the way I am living my life now? Because the choices I make now reflect to Him the choices I would make in the Kingdom.

None of us are there. He called us to become people who He wants us to become.

We go forward in Revelation 21:8. He talks about people who will not be in that Kingdom. I do not mean to be negative. What I mean to be here is motivating, to open our eyes, get our attention, that as we celebrate the rest of this Feast together, as we embrace the vision, as we really want to be in that Kingdom, there is something we have to be doing now. We cannot just coast. We cannot be the same people a year from now that we were today.

Revelation 21:8: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Literally, ashes. If we do not become people of truth, living it, knowing it, performing it in our hearts, that God can safely trust us, that is where we would be.

That should not scare you. That should give you the fear of God. It should make you appreciate the Holy Spirit of God, because with His Spirit we can overcome anything. It should give you the motivation to start saying no to what you know is not right and yes to what you know is.

As we do that, individually and collectively as His Church, those beautiful pictures that we have of the people in the Millennium, that will become us. That will become His people, His Church, united in purpose with Him, at one with Him, believing, living the same way, and encouraging each other.

We all pray for each other. Just as God wants you and me in His Kingdom, we want each other in His Kingdom because we love each other that much. We are willing to pray for each other, help each other, and encourage each other.

One last thought. Turn with me back to Proverbs 31.

As we look at our futures, which are different than the people in the Millennium, the firstfruits will become the bride of Christ. We are told in Revelation 19. In Proverbs 31, we have, of course, the proverb of the virtuous wife.

That chapter begins, “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” I just want to draw your attention to the very first thing that God says about that wife, knowing that you and I—as His men—do not look at that and say, “Well, our wives are not that way,” but look at Proverbs 31 as this is our job description.

When God looks for a virtuous wife, He is looking at you and me, saying, “Are these the people? Is this the bride for My Son? Will I choose them?”

Proverbs 31:11. Just the very first thing He says is, “The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.”

That is a wonderful thing if you are in a marriage where you can safely trust your wife, and you have grown to that, and you know that you are one. You have the same purpose. You understand each other. You are marching in the same direction. You have the blessing of both being in the Church and everything going that way. What a blessing. What a peaceful time that is.

As God looks at me, as God looks at us, as God looks at His Church and what we are doing today, would He say, “I safely trust her”? “I safely trust that they are teaching the Word of God implicitly, and they are learning and striving to keep it diligently and carefully, as God says over and over in the Old Testament. Can I safely trust them?”

We can do it. We can become people that God safely trusts, so that we will be there in that Millennium, that we will be there to teach and to share in the joy of seeing so many people come to know Jesus Christ and to live their lives in accordance with His will, and see the happiness, the joy, the abundance, and every good thing in their lives, just as it should be in our lives now.

Let us let God lead us. Let us let God take us and mold us into people that He can safely entrust with those positions that He wants to give us in His Kingdom.