

AMERICA'S HOPE

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"MEAT AND DRINK"

PASTOR C.O. STADSKLEV

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17) Some Christians use this scripture to spiritualize and explain away the literal kingdom of God. Was not part of the kingdom literal men such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or were they spirits? When Israel at Mount Sinai agreed to a special covenant God made with them, were they spirits or were they literal? Was the land God promised His earthly kingdom people a literal land? When God's literal, earthly, servant people are purged and cleansed, the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. In Numbers 14:21 the Almighty states: "But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." Then the earth will be filled with righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Of course, the kingdom of God is more than meat and drink. The kingdom of God will cause the knowledge of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Both the Christ and Moses said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This is clearly a reference to life here on earth. "That man should live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" should so shake Christendom that fables and errors will flee away. And they will.

It is absolutely essential we rightly divide between the law of ordinances, the laws governing the activities in the tabernacle and church, and the laws governing the nation or the kingdom. God in His great wisdom has given His kingdom people laws governing every activity of life here on earth: government, finance, education, the home and the family, laws in regard to crime and punishment of criminals, laws in regard to war and peace, and every and any situation and difficulty that can possibly confront an individual and a nation. To teach Christ is the end of the law without rightly dividing between these two sets of laws is to make the death and resurrection of Christ a license for the individual and the nation to sin, because sin is the transgression of the law. Where there is no law, there is no sin or transgression.

There is a righteousness by the law. Deuteronomy 6:24-25 states: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us." This is kingdom or national righteousness, not righteousness to personal salvation or regeneration. Both the Old and the New Scriptures make it very plain the righteousness of the law is not to personal salvation or regeneration. It never has been; it never can be.

Romans 10:5 states: "For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth these things shall live by them." Christ, Moses and the apostle Paul all taught the laws God gave His earthly kingdom people cover and govern the lives of individuals and nations. The teaching that Christ by His death and resurrection canceled and put away these kingdom laws is one of Lucifer's lies. This teaching destroys the Gospel of the Kingdom in the minds of millions of people. Certainly, Christ fulfilled and put away the law pertaining to ordinances, the laws pertaining to religious activities in the tabernacle and temple.

Luke 17:21 is another scripture being used to teach the Lord has no special, earthly kingdom people in this Christian dispensation which is contrary to all in the Old and New Scriptures. If these Christians would have considered the preceding verse and scores of others pertaining to the kingdom, and to the scribes and the Pharisees, they would know Christ was not teaching the kingdom of God or the church was in the scribes and Pharisees. They accused Him of having a devil. Christ said to them, "Ye are of your father the devil." Christ stated the kingdom of God is in your midst, and so it was. Christ is the King. "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (or in the midst of you)." (Luke 17:21) The disciples, the future rulers in the kingdom, and the Word of God, the constitution for this kingdom, these were in their midst.

There is a thinking among Christians today