

Orlando Bible Students Newsletter

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Of the Increase of His Government

Some politicians argue that the USA's deficit is caused by our government being too big, too expensive and offering too many benefits to the people. Their solution is to downsize the government and cut the benefits offered to the people.

How does their view of government compare with God's? The prophet Isaiah described Christ's coming world-wide government this way: "There will be **no end to the increase of His government or of peace**, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore" (Isa. 9:7 *NASB*).

Such a large government is needed to resolve all of man's problems from inequality, starvation and disease to sin and death. God will replace all of man's earthly governments with Christ's government, created in the heavens. "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 21:2 *NASB*). This new government, the New Jerusalem, is Christ and his bride, the church.

Christ's government will "wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4 *NASB*). Under this government, "all nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Ja-

cob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths'" (Isa. 2:2-3 *NASB*).

This government will teach righteousness and peace to the people (Isa. 26:9). Under its leadership, the people "will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hook. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war" (Isa 2:4 *NASB*). Under this government, God "will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain" (Isa. 25:6 *NASB*). People will no longer go hungry nor will one be able to steal or take from another. (Isa. 65:22-23). This government will protect all of the people. "They will not hurt or destroy it all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:9 *NASB*).

Death cease and all that have died will be brought back to life that they might learn to serve God. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth;" (John 5:28-29 *NASB*). Under this government, the world of mankind will be judged by Christ and his church according to the deeds they do in Christ's kingdom and not for their sins in this life (1 Cor. 6:2).

This government will be based not on the tax dollars and the imperfect efforts of men but on the righteousness, power and the resources of our all-mighty heavenly Father and His Christ. "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this" (Isa. 9:7 *NASB*).

How thankful we (*Continued on page 3*)

Goodness

Considering the many different walks of life, there are multiple definitions for what “goodness” is. Thankfully, God has given His standard of “goodness” through His word, the Bible. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son” for the purpose of redeeming mankind from death, the just punishment imposed for sin by father Adam (John 3:16).

God desired to save man because man is inherently good. God beheld his creation of man and said it is good. Man was made in God’s image with a free will and the ability to reason. God blessed him and gave him dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26-28). God loves His creation and out of His goodness, He provided a ransom for man, his only begotten son Jesus.

From this we discern that **goodness** is directed toward others; to help those unable to help themselves. This help may be at great personal cost with no possible means of repayment.

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment he said “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:37-40). Jesus is telling us that goodness is synonymous with love.

Jesus made it clear that one could not love and please God without loving his neighbor as himself. This is a call to action not only to praise and thank God for His love toward us but to show goodness and love to our fellow man. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men” (Gal. 6:10).

Thus, we must strive to inspire one another to do good works continually as part of Christ dwelling in us. As the Apostle Paul writes, “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb.10:24). Goodness is **love in action**. ■

Jesus the Mediator

“For there is one God, and one **mediator** between God and men, the “man Christ Jesus;” (1 Tim. 2:5). Mediator is one of the titles possessed by our Lord Jesus. The word mediator means a middle man, go-between, or reconciler between parties who are alienated.

God and mankind are at enmity, because our first parents, Adam and Eve, transgressed God’s law. Originally, Adam was created perfect and was in harmony with God. But when he disobeyed God’s command, he alienated himself and all mankind from God. The penalty for their sin was death (Gen. 2:17).

In due time, God provided redemption for mankind. “And we have seen and do testify

that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). At Jordan Jesus gave himself a ransom or “corresponding price.” Since Adam was perfect, Divine Justice required that the ransom be perfect human life. Jesus “gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Tim. 2:6).

For three and one-half years, Jesus laid down his earthly life daily as a sacrifice, tirelessly preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and performing miracles. “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among *(Continued on next page)*

The Tabernacle of God is with Men

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” – Rev. 21:3-5

This passage shows God’s eternal purpose is to dwell with man. The word translated “tabernacle” means “habitation.” It is God’s intent that following the thousand years of Christ’s earthly kingdom (see Rev. 20:6), each of the obedient of mankind will regain the perfection of life lost by Adam and will dwell on a perfect earth in harmony with their Creator.

God will be man’s tabernacle, or habitation, in that his righteous character will be forever established in the hearts and actions of mankind. God’s face will be turned back toward man, favoring him with the blessings of life and happiness which are now absent due to sin. These blessings are mentioned in these verses. All tears of sorrow are to be wiped away. Sorrow, crying, and pain will be done away with. There shall be “no more death.” These “former things” will have “passed away” through the work of Christ’s kingdom.

God will “make all things new,” providing man a wonderful opportunity to learn of his ways, walk in them, and receive the resulting blessing of everlasting life. This will fulfill the promise given so long ago to Abraham, that through his seed (Christ) all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen. 12:3; 22:18). We have the assurance from our theme scripture that “these words are true and faithful.” ■

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are that God will implement a perfect government to solve all of man’s problems and bring man back into harmony with himself. While this government will be larger than man has ever seen, its results will bring mankind peace, health, harmony with God and everlasting life. ■

**For more information, see our offer for the free booklet “Christ’s 1000-year Kingdom” on the back of this newsletter*

Jesus the Mediator *(continued from previous page)*

the people” (Matt. 9:35). Jesus did this until he finished his sacrifice at Calvary. Jesus’ work of sacrifice was by God’s design to prepare him to be the Mediator between God and man in his soon to be inaugurated earthly kingdom.

As mediator, Jesus will heal the human family of its diseases, raise the dead from the grave and as the “Wonderful Counsellor” teach all mankind God’s righteousness (Isa. 9:6). As mediator, Christ will bring man’s character back to the perfection that Adam once enjoyed. In this way, Jesus will bring man back to harmony and peace with God. ■

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Calendar of Events

Florida Bible Students Convention

March 3-5, 2012

Magnuson Grand Hotel
230 West State Road 436
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
[Free admission, no collection]

For further information contact:

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Or contact us at our website:
www.orlandobible.org

The Orlando Bible Students is a non-denominational group that meets for Bible studies and devotions on Sunday mornings at the South Seminole Massonic Lodge, Casselberry, FL and in area homes during the week.

For further information call: (407) 831-2098

Special Offer

We would like to send you a complimentary copy of the booklet,

“Christ’s 1000-year Kingdom”

This booklet describes how God brings blessings to all mankind through Christ’s 1000-year kingdom.

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