



Transformed



TRANSFORMED FOR KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP

May 22, 2022

A WORLD OF TWO KINGDOMS

² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. [a]

[a] - Greek - obeying the commander of the power of the air.

He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. Ephesians 2:2

The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. John 12:31

⁴ Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds 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. 2 Corinthians 4:4

³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!). ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:3-6

¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT: WE LIVE BRIEFLY IN THIS WORLD AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN.

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. Ephesians 2:19

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Ephesians 1:3

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 1 Peter 2:11

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT: KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP CONTROLS WORLDLY CITIZENSHIP.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:13-16

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT: OUR TEMPORARY TIME IN THIS LIFE CONSTANTLY EXPERIENCES AND ANTICIPATES HEAVEN.

¹⁴ For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. ¹⁵ Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. Hebrews 13:14-15

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT: WE LIVE FIRST AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN AND ALL WE DO BRINGS THE KINGDOM NOW!

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near. [g]” Matthew 4:17

[g] - Or has come, or is coming soon.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:2

We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

REFLECTIONS

1. How do you see the distinction of two kingdoms in conflict in your life?
2. What does it make you think of when you hear that Jesus's kingdom is not of this world?
3. “Transferred” to a new kingdom, says Paul. How is the transfer going?
4. What does thinking kingdom thoughts first or making decisions based on eternity look like to you?