

“The Clash of Two Kingdoms” - Ps. Richard Kerridge 16th

May, 2010

The aim of this message is to help you understand the battle that has raged throughout history; and especially how it has raged since the coming of Christ.

It is something all young people should be very clear about for it impacts how we live.

“What you believe in your heart determines how you live.”

The battle for young minds and hearts is especially fierce.

In fact all of us are impacted by the spirit of this world more than we think.

Colossians 1:13 (New International Reader's Version) He has saved us from the **kingdom** of darkness. He has brought us into the **kingdom** of the Son he loves.

Colossians 1:13 (New King James Version) He has delivered us from the **power** of darkness and conveyed us into the **kingdom** of the Son of His love,

Colossians 1:13 (Amplified Bible) [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the **control and the dominion** of darkness and has transferred us into the **kingdom** of the Son of His love

Power (Greek: Exousia – authority; control; rulership)

Kingdom (Greek: Basileia – sovereignty; rule; dominion)

Concept - power, authority, control, dominion, rule, influence

1 John 5:19 “The whole world lies **under the sway (influence)** of the wicked one”

By faith, in a moment, the Lord delivered us out of that kingdom!

But it takes a lot longer time to get our minds free from that kingdom

- “You can take the boy out of the country, but you can’t take the country out of the boy.”
- **Chinese Immigrant** – It takes a visa and a plane trip to leave China and enter Australia

- It takes a life-time and even generations to think like an Australian

Two Diametrically Opposed Kingdoms

Kingdom of Darkness Christ (LIGHT)

Kingdom of the Lord Jesus

SATAN

JESUS

SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST

HOLY SPIRIT

**THE
WORLD**

**THE
CHURCH**

FEAR

LOVE

<p>PRIDE</p> <p>FEAR / UNBELIEF</p> <p>DEATH</p> <p>SIN</p> <p>DECEPTION</p> <p>BONDAGE</p> <p>WORKS of the FLESH</p>	<p>ATTITUDE</p> <p>FORCE</p> <p>RESULT</p> <p>INFLUENCE</p> <p>SPIRIT</p> <p>CONSEQUENCES</p> <p>FRUIT</p>	<p>HUMILITY</p> <p>FAITH</p> <p>LIFE</p> <p>RIGHTEOUSNESS</p> <p>TRUTH</p> <p>LIBERTY</p> <p>FRUIT of the SPIRIT</p>
--	--	---

We now have authority over all the power of the enemy

- **Legally speaking** he has no authority over us UNLESS WE GIVE IT TO HIM
- We do this by **yielding ourselves** to or entertaining his lies and thoughts and philosophies that are contrary to God's ways and thoughts –

Romans 6:16 “Do you not know that to whom **you present yourselves** slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

Remember: We live according to our belief system – once we believe the lie, we are easy to tempt into sin – then we come into bondage to sin, Satan and fear – and death

RENEWING our MINDS - a key to being changed and knowing God's will

Romans 12:2 And do not be **conformed** to this world but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

- **Conformed** – Greek: shaped or fashioned – changeable and unstable
 - The *fashions* of the day
- **Transformation - Greek:** Metamorphoo
 - Metamorphous – change from one kind to another
 - An inward change – stronger more stable than conformed

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked **according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who **now works** in the sons of disobedience.

Amplified...You were following the course and fashion of this world [were **under the sway of the tendency of this present age**], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] **the [demon] spirit** that still **constantly works** in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

- **A spirit** (anti-Christ) **constantly working**, influencing and taking dominion
 - **Setting up strongholds in minds** - thoughts that have a **strong hold**

Leaven

1. It can **represent sin** (the power/influence of sin)
2. Also - the **way things spread in the kingdom**
 - a. A little leaven, leavens the whole lump
 - b. LIKE AN UNSEEN POWER that works away when conditions are right

Moral Breakdown / Ungodliness / Family Breakdown – Similar statistics for the world and the church

The leaven (the spirit of this world) has greatly influenced the church – especially the MINDS of YOUNG PEOPLE

What Happened? An unseen deceptive, lying, destructive, thoughts of an anti-Christ spirit has been released - especially through education and media

- The worlds of the young

What Should Happen? The Spirit of truth and God's word (His way of thinking) should be influencing the world!!!!!!

It is a battle of PHILOSOPHIES, thoughts, words, ideologies – *sown* by spirits.

There is a spirit who WORKS – to sow and empower lies – amongst people

- Life and death in the power of the tongue
- **Proverbs 4:20-23** A serious approach to God's words / truth

WHY SUCH A BATTLE FOR THE MIND? The enemy knows that persistent, unrelenting ideas will eventually change a person

Pastor Hal Oxley – On the brink of a break-down during the war trained his mind so he could handle the death and mayhem – thinking on one thing at a time

The Brain that Changes – Norman Doidge MD - Neuroplasticity – how the brain can change itself – “astonishing transformations”. The research indicates that our brain not only more resourceful to make improvements; but also is “more vulnerable to outside influences” that previously thought.

Who Switched off My Brain – Controlling toxic thoughts and emotions – Christian doctor, Caroline Leaf – her research of the human brain with particular emphasis on unlocking the untapped potential and linking the scientific principles of the brain to physical, emotional and intellectual issues. She helps people with stress, toxic thinking, and “strongholds” overcome these things and learn how to think wisely.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (Amplified Bible) ³For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our **warfare** according to the flesh and using mere human weapons

⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are **mighty through God for the overthrowing and destruction of strongholds**, (Thoughts that have strong holds)

⁵[Inasmuch as we] **refute** arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that **sets itself up against** the [true] knowledge of God; and **we lead every thought and purpose away captive** into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)

- Take hold of it by the neck and say, “Lord is this YOUR THOUGHT? Is this according to the TRUTH?”
- If not, REFUTE IT, PULL IT DOWN, OVERTHROUGH IT, DISMANTLE IT – show it up for what it is – REPLACE IT with the truth

We need to do **more** than take a strong stand **against** wrong philosophies.

We need to take a **STRONG POSITIVE ATTITUDE for** what God says about everything.

- **We can't be in NEUTRAL (CFC – YACS** – Developed a positive attitude towards sex after marriage)

As soon as you come up against a mountain (against the flow) you will roll (flow) backwards

- Must be in **FORWARD gear** with the **accelerator down!**

We need more than a better set of rules and standards!

- We already have them, and the church is still rolling backwards

We need to be **EMPOWERED and TRANSFORMED by the SPIRIT of GOD and by HIS WORD rather than seduced and CONFORMED by the enemy.**

“Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord.”

Legalism's Failure: Forbidding short skirts; not drinking, not smoking, not dancing, not going to clubs, not having sex before marriage; not watching pornography etc – may keep our little church *looking* holy but does not empower us to change the society.

Legalism ends up with people only doing the right thing **out of fear**

- In their hearts they would like to do the wrong thing

- In the end when the law is not looking they end up sinning
 - Is there a policeman watching?

The more we try to be righteousness by laws, the more sin is empowered!

- Kids walking near the glass-house. One has a sign “Do not throw stones!”

We need positive, Spirit-filled lives, armed with the Word of God

- **On the front foot**, not the back foot
- A **righteousness consciousness** rather than a sin consciousness
- We do what we do because **WE BELIEVE IT and LOVE IT and DESIRE IT**

The person who is righteousness-conscious grows to love righteousness, and hates sin a lot more. The desire to sin or the power of sin loses its hold.

- If you own and drive a brand new Mercedes Benz you will not be easily tempted with an old second hand Holden

It is all about what kingdom you come under (yield to)

The **default position** in the world places us in a dangerous place

- It is set by the devil and controlled by the spirit of anti-Christ (instead of Christ > against Christ)

“In the world but not of it” What does that mean?

- We need to be **in the world but we are submitted to God’s kingdom**

Rather than being known for being against bad things we should be known for our love for God, our love for each other and **for God’s kingdom (his stuff)**

- Rather than concentrating on how bad promiscuity is (which it is) we declare how **good marriage is and we demonstrate it.**

At University, School and through Media

- Kids under the power of the anti-Christ spirit
- **We need to make sure our young people come under the influence of a greater power!**
 - **A demonstration** of the Spirit and power
 - **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

- **An positive attitude** that stays in forward gear in spite of the hills
- A strong **Biblical understanding** of the truth
- **Well trained in Spiritual warfare** – armour and weapon and tactics
- **Passionate, intelligent, wisdom from leaders (not just the pastors)**
 - Righteousness minded, well-informed Christian parents, teachers, youth leaders, scientists

Conclusion

We need to:

1. Understand the Clash of the **Two Kingdoms**
2. Understand **why the church fails** – when it should be winning
3. Understand we have the **authority and power to make a change**
4. **Step forward not back** – get out of neutral and into forward gear
5. **Pull down strong holds** – with the word of God and the power of the Spirit.
6. **Construct God's strong holds** in the minds of God's young people