**“The King’s Sufficiency: All Things New”**

Matt. 9:14-17; Col. 2:3-23

(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 9/10/23)

**(Please note: This study will be unavailable on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 and Oct. 15)**

Is Christianity for you a religion about God, or is it a relationship with God? Jesus insists He did not come to patch up your life with a little religion. He came to make you brand new! (Rev. 21:5) He didn’t come to add a “little bit of Jesus” to your already busy life. Christ alone is sufficient for you.

Earlier in Matt. 9, Jesus called the least likely person into His kingdom. Once focused on himself, Matthew became poor in spirit. His allegiance was to Jesus alone. He dropped his old life like a rock and followed Jesus. Matthew became a new creation, growing in godliness, enlivened to follow his King.

Immediately Matthew invited his dirtbag friends to a big feast at his house, because he wanted them to meet and KNOW Jesus. Pharisees and John’s disciples both wondered aloud why they needed to act religious, but Jesus’ disciples didn’t. The Pharisees thought that God’s laws were enough. They wanted to be seen as devout and spiritual. It was all for show! Their question isn’t really a question- it’s a rebuke. John’s disciples asked the same question, because they were preparing for the King. Some of John’s disciples had become disciples of Jesus, but some were still in the time of sorrowful repentance, in preparation for the King. They didn’t realize He was right there in front of them!

But Messiah has come! The time for celebration is here! Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. It is no longer a time of fasting; it’s a time of feasting! (compare with Hosea 2:19-20) To be a Christian is to not simply become religious; it’s to know God and enjoy Him forever. And that is all made possible through Christ, our Bridegroom and our King. (Isa. 61:10)

Self-made religion, with its rules and scruples, is not merely incompatible with the gospel… it’s destructive to the gospel. So put away your uninformed rituals and come to Christ. Beware: a little patch of Jesus in an otherwise self-directed life is not real faith. Even the Law is not enough. It instructs Christians, but it doesn’t energize Christians. Christ alone provides the new heart that desires to live the godward life. Are you devoted to the One who loved you first? Are you secure in His love, even through hardship? You are meant to wear Jesus’ robe of righteousness, not your patched up old life.

This study is entitled “All Things New” because Jesus did not come to patch up a sinner’s life; He came to give new life to His people. As Jesus told Nicodemus, “You must be born again.” As we read in Col. 2, some in the early church wanted to reattach things from the old covenant. CHRIST ALONE IS SUFFICIENT! A would-be Christian’s old life cannot contain the new life that Christ gives. His reign is ever expanding. (Q4) Christ’s aim is to continually pour new life into you, so you will become more and more like Him. Remember, our risen King is coming again soon. Let us LIVE for that day (Rev. 19:7). The bride has received His lavish and loyal love, and she responds in joy, love, gratitude, and surrender. Amen.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What rituals and routines do some cling to in order to look or feel acceptable to God? Are there any that draw us closer to Christ, or do they just pull us farther away from a real relationship with Him?
2. How is life before salvation like an old coat that cannot be patched up? How is a relationship with Christ alone like wearing a new coat?
3. In what ways does the Colossians passage help you understand what Jesus means by “old” and “new” in Matt. 9?
4. What did Pastor Steve mean when he said, “[Jesus’] reign is ever expanding.”

**There is Power in the Blood”** (Jones)

1. Would you be free from the burden of sin?  
   There’s pow’r in the blood, pow’r in the blood;  
   Would you o’er evil a victory win?  
   There’s wonderful pow’r in the blood.
   * **Refrain:  
     There is pow’r, pow’r, wonder-working pow’r  
     In the blood of the Lamb;  
     There is pow’r, pow’r, wonder-working pow’r  
     In the precious blood of the Lamb.**
2. Would you be free from your passion and pride?  
   There’s pow’r in the blood, pow’r in the blood;  
   Come for a cleansing to Calvary’s tide;  
   There’s wonderful pow’r in the blood.
3. Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?  
   There’s pow’r in the blood, pow’r in the blood;  
   Sin-stains are lost in its life-giving flow;  
   There’s wonderful pow’r in the blood.
4. Would you do service for Jesus your King?  
   There’s pow’r in the blood, pow’r in the blood;  
   Would you live daily His praises to sing?  
   There’s wonderful pow’r in the blood.