



NOVEMBER 1

THRIVING IN BABYLON

CHARTING OUR COURSE

This weekend we learned how to maintain a kingdom perspective in any given circumstance. As followers of Jesus, we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne and our top priority is to continue to love God and one another and to make unity a top priority. Before we begin our study, meditate on the following verses:

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble...
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

Psalms 46:1, 10



READ

What does the Word say about this topic?

Let's begin our study by looking at several scriptures that relate to Michael's three principles from his message this weekend. As you read through the following passages, write at least one sentence for each passage, summarizing it in your own words.

Jesus . . . is King

- Psalm 103:19
- Ephesians 1:18-22
- Philippians 2:9-11

Unity . . . is a Priority

- Philippians 1:27, 2:1-8
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Col 3:12-15

This World . . . is Not Our Home

- Daniel 7:13-14
- Mark 14:61-62
- Philippians 3:20-21



REFLECT

What do these passages reveal about a Kingdom Perspective?

1. Using the YouVersion Bible App, read Ephesians 1:21-22 again in the NIRV translation. How do these verses describe Jesus' rule as King? In other words, where is He ruling and what is He ruling over?

2. In Philippians 2:2, Paul encourages the church of Philippi to be “like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” Based on verses 3-4, what else does Paul urge them to do?

- Now spend a few minutes observing how Philippians 2:1-4 compares with Ephesians 4:1-6. Write in your journal any similar words or themes you observe.

3. Using only one word, how would you describe the mindset of Christ Jesus as portrayed in Philippians 2:6-8?

4. In Colossians 3:14, Paul says, “over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” What virtues is he referring to in verses 12 and 13?

5. Daniel describes a vision of a new Kingdom in Daniel 7:13-14, but this kingdom is coming from heaven. How does this kingdom compare and contrast with any other nation in history?



RESPOND

In light of these truths, how does God want me to respond?

1. In the message, Michael shared that all authority in heaven and earth was given to Jesus, that He is King over us and over creation. Jesus will lead us and empower us to love well and to advance His Kingdom.

- What does it mean for Jesus to be King in your life in light of the challenges we are currently facing in our nation?

2. Based upon the message and the verses we studied, what are some practical things you could do to have a Kingdom mindset?

3. As we learned this weekend, one of Jesus’ top priority for His followers is to love one another. We learned that we must fight for unity in our body and that we will not always be in agreement on important, but secondary issues. Re-read Colossians 3:12-13 in light of the controversies at hand today (the election, Covid-19, Black Lives Matter, etc.).

- Regarding possible points of contention you had or have now with a brother or sister in Christ, what are some ways that you have dealt with that conflict, good or bad?
- With the truth of scripture in mind from the verses we explored, how can you approach any future conflicts with a Kingdom perspective in order to maintain unity?

4. Read Philippians 3:20-21 again. In the message, we learned that the word *citizenship is politeuma* in the Greek, which is related to our word politics. Paul is saying, as Christ-followers, our identity is rooted in heaven since that is our true home. How should this truth impact the way we approach political issues on earth?

5. In the Spiritual Warfare series we just finished, we learned that our greatest weapon is prayer. As Paul says in Ephesians 6:18, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” As we operate from this new Kingdom mindset, how might this weapon of prayer help to win the battle for unity?

- Spend 5-10 minutes praying *in the Spirit* about any frustrations you may be experiencing in a relationship or in regard to your current circumstances. Invite God into that situation or frustration and ask him to give you a renewed hope and encouragement as well as any new insight you need for resolution.