

## Editorial Thought...

### The Rule Of God...

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God.  
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

- James 4:7 -



Daniel Seay

The "Rule of God". By that I mean a different use of Jesus' phrase: "*the Kingdom of God*" or "*the Kingdom of heaven*". In one sense God is controlling all things. But, as Jesus taught, there is a sense in which only part of "*God's Will*" is being done on Earth. There is a portion of God's Will that God has given as a choice for humans to perform. This is what is meant in the Lord's Prayer where Jesus taught, "*Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven*". There is a sense in which the Kingdom is not a place. Instead, the Kingdom is a sphere of influence, the *Reign* or *Rule* of God directly over His people. We get a sense from the Genesis creation story - and the story of Israel demanding a King ( 1 Samuel 8) - that the way God prefers to *Rule* is through a voluntary relationship and not through *hierarchical* relationships maintained by force. In one sense, God is not our friend or buddy. God is *Holy* and *Spirit*. He made us. Christ saved us. Thus, He, has a claim on our lives (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:20). In another sense, God is profoundly egalitarian, not because He is Pro-*democracy*, but because He requires no system at all. God has access directly to the human heart. As Jesus said, the *Kingdom (Rule) of God* - is within or around you (Luke 17:21).

There is also an aspect of the *Kingdom (Rule) of God* that is Apocalyptic (Greek word that means to *reveal*). There is a part of God's future Kingdom that will one day break into this reality and the glory of the Lord will reveal the *Eternal Kingdom* that will rule all things in all ways and under which *all* people will acknowledge as the true reality. Jesus will bring His Bride into this Kingdom. Until that day comes, followers of Jesus are called to live in such a way that proclaims to others the coming Kingdom and the assurity of its reality.

When we consider it, even in the Old Covenant (found in book of Exodus), God recognized the need for a *Law* to help mediate a relationship between Himself and His creation. This seemed to be an intermediary step to move people back toward God's Rule based on *relationship*. Even the idea of a *New Covenant* is described in the Book of Jeremiah where God promises to write His Law on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33).

The expectations for the coming *King* were many in Jesus' day. Some expectations thought He would come like David, establishing the Rule of God through the Sword, thereby replacing Roman Rule with a Hebrew State. Jesus did not act from this tradition. Instead, He drew from the Hebrew tradition that God's Rule - from the earliest of times - emanated from God ruling over the human heart. He emphasized that this *Rule* had great power. We see this through His great Power. Some, who claim to have come under God's Rule, have views of following Jesus that seem to involve a lot of effort on their part and little power from God.

Even though Christians were excluded from political power for the first few hundred years of the church, the movement grew rapidly, changing the face of the Roman Empire. As the modern *anti-church/anti-religious* narrative goes, the church forsook the Rule of God for the Rule of Law when it allowed Constantine to co-op the faith for Roman purposes. It has pretty much been downhill from there. With the exception of several attempts at Reformation, Christianity's influence on the Western World is no longer thought of as positive, largely because Christians have tried to bring too much *Law* into the Rule of God. There are those who look to the church of Acts and the Gospels, and call for *Radical Discipleship* and *Revival*. Inevitably, the problem is framed in terms of the individual, and the potential of the mass of those individuals to change society. This does not change the fact that the *Rule of God* is primarily about relationships not politics or religion.

I have struggled a lot in my theological understanding, as a son of a preacher, primarily because I know Jesus was about the *Rule of God* in our hearts, and that - ideally - this should take precedence over nationality, politics, and denominational loyalties, which many denominational *Christians* have come to see as a necessary evil. *SEEKING FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS* is about submitting to God's Rule and His ideal for Right Living. It has everything to do with our *Relationship* with Him. It has nothing to do with Sectarian Disciplines, Politics or Nationality. May we, in all ways, submit to His Rule in our hearts.

## News And Notes

### Our Prayer List

Bud Daniel, LuAnn Gann, Guyot Family, The Robin Wilson family, Josh Wallace, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader (daughter-in-law of June), Alice Jones, Diana Nordin, Dick Cox, Barbara Shank, Pat Cipolla, Andy Huffman, Joe Kreutzkamp, John & Helen Meyer, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*  
[James 5:16b]

### Statistics

For The Week Of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Sunday Class	18
Sunday AM	29
Sunday PM	21
Wednesday PM	7
Contribution	\$547.50
YTD Budget (38)	\$27,930.00
Difference Year-To-Date	- 1103.79
Savings Account Balance	\$1088.78

*2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:12 - 'Your generosity is doing great things*

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Birthday:** Wade McCallie (7), Tonja McCollam (9), Emma McCollam (16), Charlene Edgett (21), Janice Seay (25)  
**Anniversary:-**None (1)

### COMING EVENTS

**Our Pantry Is Empty Again! Let's Refill It!**

**Carpenter Place picked up on Thursday**

**New Bible Class Curriculum's Have Started**

**- Sunday At 9:30am - "God Of Wonders"**

**- Wednesday At 7pm - "Isaiah The Prophet"**

**McCallie Open House - October 11th!**

**- 3:30p to 7p - Steak Dinner - Plan To Attend -**

### Roof Work - Round #2

The Building Work Day is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 3pm. Work on the Cross and some other roof painting needs will be addressed. Let Wade or Rob know if you are able to come.

### McCallie Open House

The remodeling work at the McCallie's is completed and they want to share it in an Open House on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Sign the list in the foyer so Wade will know how many steaks to cook. Come and share together.

### Agenda For

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Theme:**

**SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM**

**Today's Topic:**

**"...KINGDOM=RULE OF GOD"**

AM Class: "*THE GOD OF WONDERS*" Film

Series - Moderated By Dan Seay

10:30 am: "*SUBMITTING TO GOD'S RULE*"

Text: Romans 10

1 pm: **Devotional**

Text: Selected Scriptures

Wed. Bible Study: "*Isaiah The Prophet*" Study -

Wade McCallie, Moderating

### Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

June Brant	Debi Stowe
Billye Werner	Ruth Kinnick
Diana Nordin	Allen Sullivan
LuAnn Gann	Andy Huffman
Richard Hoose	The Loendorf Family
Robin Wilson	Roy Bays
Ray and Imogene Hearn	Art and Janice Mischler
Josh Werner	The Wollenburg's
Josh Wallace	Jeanie McDonald
The Guyot Family	Daker Elessor



### Great Day Sunday

Our Kick-Off Day was a great day. We had good attendance at both Bible Class and Worship and enjoyed a great catered meal together. We also recognized Rob Harris for his unselfish work for the church (plus his Route 66 birthday).