Being citizens of Christ's Kingdom (Quality: Average)

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 23 March 1966

Preacher: Lee, Jabez (1894-1968)

[0:00] The words I would thank you to try and make a few remarks from, you will find in the 12th chapter, Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, verses 28 and 29.

28th and 29th verses of the 12th chapter, Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews. 29th verse, wherefore, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is our consuming fire.

The Apostle Paul, in this particular chapter, had a view of the condition of the church and also has set before us the exercises and the experiences of God's people.

And if you and I have any particle of this experience, it should give us some humble hope that we know something of those things that God's people are taught.

You know, it's a mercy if we have a religion that we know something of the chastening of the Lord, whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth.

[2:14] And it's your mercy if, when he chastens us, he humbles us at his feet.

And I am persuaded of this one thing, that God will not leave us long without some chastening in some form or other.

We may not realize it, but it is God's chastening when he hides his face from us.

And blessed chastening in some form or other. And blessed chastening it is, because he produces in us the earnest opera.

And brings forth out of our hearts that which may have been laid dormant for some time.

[3:22] For I believe that all those things that God giveth unto his people at the entering in of life into the soul, at times of late dormant.

And therefore, God, in his wisdom and his love and compassion toward us, brings us into trying dispensation.

That these things that these things may be revived within us. And when we ask the Lord to revive us again, when we ask the Lord to come and give us another taste of his love, It is by these means he does it.

Since his thoughts are not our thoughts, neither our ways is ways. Therefore, it is by these things he brings forth prayer in the heart under him.

And cause of us to cry out that he will once more return unto our poor barren hearts.

[4:56] That we might once more hear his voice. That voice that shook the earth, as we read here, whose voice then shook the earth.

But now he hath promised saying, yet once more I shake not earth only, but also heaven. So that mighty voice is such that will shake us from time to time.

And cause us to cry out unto him. I know it's right. And we do ask him to keep prayer alive in our hearts.

Because we fear that prayer might never more proceed from the wicked hearts of ours.

Well, when we ask him thus, surely it will be in a way that he will cause prayer to come from our hearts by leading us into paths that we had not known.

[6:17] Well, in these words we read here by way of a text. He speaks of a kingdom. Wherefore, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved.

There are many kingdoms. There is the kingdom of Satan. And many there are that belong under that kingdom.

We belong to it. As we were born by nature. As we were born into this world by nature. We belong to the kingdom of Satan.

And there would have remained. But that is not an enduring kingdom. That is a kingdom that will be moved.

And destroyed. Have been destroyed by Christ. And that it is coming. But there is a kingdom.

[7:27] Which shall endure. That cannot be moved. While we see. That all other kingdoms are shaken. They are being shaken today.

By the mighty God of heaven. Throughout the universe. We observe it. Though we do not want to. Speak.

Of those things that transpire. But they have a bearing here. As we see. That the kingdom of the earth.

Are shaken. Are shaken. And. We believe that God. Is that one. That raises monarchs. To their thrones.

And sinks them. If he pleads. Thus all those things. That are transpiring. That are transpiring. In the world. That day. Are not.

[8:25] Without. God's notice. And he knows all things. And permits it. To bring about. All his purposes. And his eternal decrees.

That are unalterable. And while we as poor creatures. On the earth. May tremble. At his dealings. On the earth today.

And wonder. What is about to take place. Yet. There is a People. Who belong under his kingdom. And that shall not be moved.

Though the world be shaken. Though all the. Those things. That are around us. Seem to be against his church.

Yet. God still. Omnipotent reigneth. Omnipotent reigneth. He does indeed. And is the same. God.

[9:26] As. From the beginning. For he changeth not. The same today. Yesterday. And forever. That wherefore.

Then we. Receiving a kingdom. Well. How do they receive it? Well. They receive it. By the.

Free. Gift of God. Since they are. Translated. From the kingdom of Satan. Into the kingdom.

Of God's dear son. Where. At one time. They were alienated. From God. And. Knew nothing. Of those things.

Which. Are. To be found. In Christ. So then. God. In his mighty power. Uh. Translates them.

[10:23] That is. Brings them. Out of that kingdom. Into that kingdom. Kingdom. The kingdom of God's dear son. Uh. So then. They become.

Uh. Citizens. Of. That kingdom. Is a wonderful favor. If you and I. Have some humble hope.

Uh. Though it may. Sometimes. Seems slender. Uh. That we are. Among. Uh. The inhabitants. Of this kingdom.

Blessed inhabitants. Of Zion. Uh. Of. The kingdom. Of. Jesus Christ. Well. He brings forth.

His people. Out of the kingdom. Of Satan. Uh. By a mighty. And outstretched arm. Dost thou remember. Sinner.

[11:20] When thou was a bondman. In Egypt. Uh. When. Uh. You served. The flesh. When you served. The things. Of this world.

When your old flesh. Rejoiced. In those things around. And. Some have been left. Like this poor sinner.

To go into things. That are forbidden. In God's word. And endeavor. To drink them down. As a sweet morsel. All. But the mighty voice.

Of God. Brings all. Brings such. Away. From those things. And. Immediately. Uh. Then.

The king of grace. The king of glory. Takes possession. Of the soul. And brings it forth. Out of the powers. Of hell. And of darkness.

[12:17] They become citizens. Of this kingdom. And. Uh. Uh. There too. Uh.

They have. All the privileges. Uh. That. Are bestowed. Uh. Upon. Uh. His people. They have indeed.

What is the. The great. And. Wonderful privilege. I believe. Uh. That outstands. In. Uh. The experience.

Of the citizens. Of this kingdom. Well. I believe. Uh. That. Wonderful privilege. Is this. Uh. That they may approach.

Under the king. No one else. Allowed. To approach. Under this king. But in the way. That his people are. They are permitted.

[13:14] To approach. Under this king. In and through. His own merits. And in and through. Uh. What he.

Did. For. And on their behalf. Uh. Why you see. Uh. With. Uh. Our king. The king of heaven. King Jesus.

There is a blessed union. There is a oneness. Uh. So that. His citizens. Are. Uh. One with him.

Uh. By eternal. Union one. Joined. Uh. Under him. Uh. By. Uh. Those.

By those things. Which he accomplished. For them. Upon the cross. So then. Uh. Where.

[14:07] For we. Receiving a kingdom. Which cannot be moved. Well he came here on earth. That he might. Uh.

Obtain. Uh. For his people. Uh. This kingdom. There is so much. In this. In these words. One feels.

So deep. Uh. To enter into. Uh. But. Our dear saviour. Though the kingdom. Was this. From. From before. Uh.

The beginning of the world. Yet you see. Uh. There is a need. Be. Uh. That they. That this kingdom. Uh.

Should. Uh. Be redeemed. That's. I believe. Why. Our saviour. Came. That he might. Offer up.

[15:02] Himself. A living sacrifice. Under the father. That he might. Redeem his people. Who are that kingdom. Uh. From. Uh. Uh.

The powers. Of Satan. And of that kingdom. That one day. Uh. Shall be. Swallowed up. Uh. By him. Which we'll try and come into.

In the latter verse. Uh. So then. Uh. When he obtained this kingdom.

That he's paid the. Uh. Purchase price. Which the father demanded. That it might be. A free. Uh. Kingdom. Free from all.

Uh. Other demands. Upon it. And also. As we see here. Uh. We have nothing to bring. Not like it is with the earthly kingdoms.

[16:01] Uh. Where there has to be. Upon all its subjects. Some demands. But God hasn't made any. Harsh commands. For these. His people.

Oh no. He hasn't done anything. Uh. But what. Uh. Been complete. And needed nothing. To be added unto. Therefore.

There is nothing demanded. Of the sinner. There's nothing. Uh. Demanded at all. Whereby. Uh. This kingdom. Is to be kept.

And may I say. Going. Oh it's complete. It is indeed. And instead of us having to. Give.

Under the king. Anything. Whatsoever. It is. Uh. The opposite. Whereby. The king. The king of grace.

[17:00] Gives unto his people. All those riches. Uh. That. Are known. In the soul. Oh.

Those exceeding riches. Of his grace. Uh. That he gives unto his people. Uh. Freely. And unmerited. Grace.

Uh. And it is indeed. Uh. Uh. When he gives us. Uh. To know. And to feel. That we have some interest.

In the kingdom. Well. Uh. There is a receiving then. Uh. This kingdom. Uh. For his kingdom is set up.

In our hearts. Uh. So that. As it is set up in our hearts. He dwells. In our hearts. He does indeed. And he reigns.

[17:56] As once he's reign. All us as king. Accomplish thy will. And powerfully bring us forth more hill. Till falling before thee.

Before thee. We lord thy great name. And so then. It is a mercy if he is in our hearts. Set up there.

As a king. To reign over us. And if he is vast in our hearts.

As the king of heaven. There will be. I believe. Many things come. Against us.

For it ever hath been. That evil things have come. Against. In God's kingdom. And if you are one of his subjects.

[18:53] You will find. That there will be much. Come against you. There will indeed. It will be just like you'll be in singing.

There will be many crowds. And clouds come upon you. And then you will find. That as Satan.

The great king. Of hell himself. Will come forth. To fight as it were. Against the king of heaven. If you have the king of grace.

In your heart. And in your soul. I am sure. That you will find. There will be many battles. For the enemy.

Of thy soul. And the enemy. Of the king of grace. Will come forth. Sometimes. With his mighty power. Of her. And he will not be.

[19:53] At a last. Sometimes. To bring a legion. With him. In endeavor. To overthrow. As he hath. From the very beginning.

The kingdom. Of God. He began it. In the garden. Of Eden. And. He did it.

He did endeavor. Right through. And even. I feel. Even the tower. Of Mabel. There. I believe. Satan.

Was the author. Of it. If by any. Means. He might. Climb back. Into heaven. I don't speak that wrongly.

But you see. How. He put it. In the hearts. Of men. Even there. That they might. Build a tower. Even under heaven. But the mighty. King of heaven.

[20:48] King of heaven. Came down. And confounded. Their languages. So that they could. Go no further. With. Their. Wicked devices. Oh.

What a mercy. It is. We have such a God. And though. We see the things. Around us. Today. My friends. God. I'm just a blow. Upon it. Tonight. Oh. Yes. All these things.

We see. That we are. Trippling off. About. Fear. Why. One mighty. One word. From his mighty voice. I can overthrow it all.

Like. We believe it has been. Breaking away. I know. But I say. Like it has been. Throughout the ages. How God. Hath overthrown.

Mighty powers. Which. Have come against. His people. And though. We see these. Taking place. Today. Around us. Yet.

[21:45] I believe. Still. We have the same. God. The same. King of grace. That alone. Can fight our. Buttles. And he will. Not in a way.

We think. But he will. Fight them. For there is. Nothing. That can overcome. His kingdom. This is a kingdom. Which we read here. That cannot be moved.

Though men are. Trying to move it. Though there are. Those today. Rising up against us. As we. Desire to hold.

Past. Of these things. Many other. Kingdoms. There are. Two. In the heart of man. That rising up. Against God's truth.

And against those. Who declare it. And would destroy them. If they had. That opportunity. Afforded them. By the laws. Of our land. Let us not be mistaken.

[22:40] Because I. I believe. There are those. And I've heard it said. We don't want to hear about this. When we come to chapel. I've been told that. My friends. But. Is it.

That some are. In a lukewarm condition. Is it. That some are. Asleep. At the soul. The things that are. Around us today. You see.

How. Those. Those. Of we've known. Our parents. And some. Of God's servants. That have already gone. The old. Ones.

That we've known. In days past. And our parents too. They didn't come up against. These things. We've come in a day. That's for why. They didn't preach it. But today. We've come up to a line.

Of things that his servants. Are to declare. And to cry against. Those things. As they are indeed. That they might. Enliven.

[23:33] In the hand of God. The. The hearts. Of the hearers. That they might. Pray. With an earnest. Prayer unto God. That he will stay.

The tide of sin. That he will. Overthrow. Also. Those things. That are coming. Against us. As a church. And people. Popery.

And all its. Heediousness. How terrible it is. And as we. Stand today. Such a. A few people.

There is a. That I feel. That know. These things are right. Oh. What a few. There is. Compared with the mighty. Multitudes.

That are going after. That awful. System. That will. That would destroy. God's people. And so suddenly. So.

[24:27] In such that condition. Satan. You see. Is creeping. Little here. And a little there. And so that. We begin to. Tremble.

At the very thought. Of what's approaching us. But nevertheless. There is a kingdom. That cannot be moved. And his people. Being of that kingdom.

They are safeguarded. By him. And whatever may come. Upon us. They cannot take from us. This kingdom.

They cannot. Wrench us. From him. Who hath redeemed us. From. The powers.

Of hell. And the kingdom. Of Satan. Well. Then there is a receiving. As I said. This kingdom. And.

[25:21] That kingdom. Is within us. And though. Our pathway. Is such. Such. Sometimes. That we fear. That we shall be moved.

Yet. You see. There is a declaration here. That should comfort us. That it cannot be moved. So that.

Though we. We seem to be moved. Either and thither. Sometimes. Fear. That we stand not upon. This foundation. Many trials.

Difficulties and sorrows. Days of darkness. They take us by surprise. Sometimes. Don't they? But you know. It's no surprise.

Really. Because the word. God declares. That the days of darkness. Shall be many. Yet. We want all light. A terrible thing. We have all light.

[26:19] By. My friends. May I say. Religion. Is all light. Is a. Is a. Religion. That is destitute. There is no such thing. As a religion. That has all light.

That is right before God. Thank God. For the days of darkness. Sinner. For it is those. That know.

What the days of darkness. Are. That appreciate the light. Surely. Those of us. Have known. What.

Literally. I'm speaking here. Known. What a dark night is. Some of us. In days past. In the forces. Especially. When. We used to be out. Upon a very dark night.

And. How many. Fears. It may have been. As we had to go. Either and little. And yet. You see.

[27:17] The day. Of the dawning. Came. The dawning. Of the day. Came. How when. The. Shadows. Began to.

To flee. See. And there. We saw. The sun. Arising. Over the horizon. So it is. If I. Spiritually. Those of us.

That have known. What the days. Of darkness. Are. Have appreciated. The light. When. The dear. Saviour. Come. Come. As it were. Over the horizon.

When. You've seen. The day. Begin to dawn. And it may be. At that very time. He's come. In all his beauty. In all his glory. Before your view.

And you've seen. The light. And you've known. The difference. Then. Betwixt the two. Then you have found. That the days. Of darkness. For the time. Being.

[28:13] Have been forgotten. When you've seen. The glorious light. Shine. Into your soul. And so. Then there are. These various.

Exercises. Of these. These people. That belong. Under God's kingdom. It's a wonderful thing.

To have an exercise. Religion. It's a wonderful thing. To have. These many things. Arise in our hearts.

These many fears. Others. Why. I've been. In the past. Few weeks. In all kinds. And manners. Of exercises.

Sometimes. I've felt. We need to give up. Sometimes. We need to go back. And. Walk. No more. With him. Some might say. Well. That's a terrible place.

[29:07] It is. It is. It's a place. My friends. Where. It needs more. Than carnal reason. Needs more. Than flesh.

To battle. Against it. Oh yes. It needs. The mighty. King of grace. The mighty. King of heaven. To come.

And deliver us. And to hold us fast. Why. You know. I believe. God's people. Are brought. Sometimes. Into places. Where.

They question. All their religion. Or in such times. As I've just spoken of. They begin to say. Within. Surely.

I'm mistaken. Surely. I know. Nothing. Savingly. Of these things. And this will bring us. Into a condition. Of.

[30:03] Fear. And trembling. It will indeed. Because we know. In that exercise. If that exercise. Be right. And left in that condition.

That. There is nothing but eternal. Everlasting ruin. Not an easy place. One might say. To be in. But. We may come there.

And we do come there. Sometimes. Some of us. And we fear. Fear. Fear. And yet. You see. Brings out. From us. May I say.

We feel in a sinking condition. Brings from us. More prayer. And a cling.

Unto him. That. We may be delivered. From that awful condition. Well. There will be exercises. And we shall.

[31:01] Appreciate. That when we. Are brought forth. Out of those conditions. That he hath. Led us. By that right way.

Sometimes. It may be. When in these paths. We shall hear. That word. Saying. This is the way. Our walk. Ye. In that. We find it.

Throughout God's word. We do indeed. But all. Are the citizens. Of this. Of this. Kingdom. That they. Walked a path. That.

That. That. Was. Contrary to nature. And also. Could not be understood. To those around them. Why.

It would be no use. My friends. To talk. To any. Of these things. If they know not the path. Oh no. Wherefore.

[32:01] We receiving. A kingdom. Which cannot be moved. Let us have grace. Oh. What a mercy. To have grace. Well.

What will grace. Do for us. Well. One thing. I know. It will do. It will break down. All nature. Grace.

I say. It will break down. All nature. It will bring. That old. Haughty. Nature. Arouse down. It will bring down. It will bring down.

All self. It will bring down. Those things. Which were once in us. Conquering grace.

We call that. It conquers. And. It brings down. That nature. Which we were born with.

[32:55] Subduing grace. Conquering grace. And so. It makes. It makes. A. Definite.

Change. In us. Although. We may. Find it. Ways. Now. Then. A little. In us. But grace. Conquers. There's none.

On earth. To be more. Thankful. For conquering grace. Subduing grace. Than the sinner. Speaking here. This morning. For had he not been.

For. Conquering grace. And subduing grace. I should have never been. Where I am. This morning. Because it would have.

Carried me down. The stream. The total darkness. That us have grace. That grace.

[33:59] That. That is. Pound in none other. But. The Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ. That grace. Which subdues.

And conquers. That grace. Too. Which. I. Believe. Is a forgiving grace. Is that.

That can forgive. All. Those things. That might. Have been. Said of us. Or against us.

And it will cause us. To pray. For our enemies. Yes. It will indeed. It will indeed. Oh I know. That.

This is true. Having experienced. That there are times. When. We have. The last week. Of. Of.

[34:56] Of. From all. Those things. Which may have been. In our hearts. Against any. Or. I have thought. Especially.

In the last week. When we see. One and another. Being taken. From the platform. Of time. The one. Near. one soul as I beheld this upon the past week, oh how I thought there what a mercy to come to our end and be in possession of forgiving grace. Wouldn't be prudent to go into there exactly what I mean with regard to any relative, but there is such a thing as forgiving grace there is indeed. And it will bring us into that place too to see how that while we forgive others, how that he himself forgiveth us. For except we forgive those that trespass against us, there is no forgiveness for us with God.

A wonderful thing isn't it? To have forgiving grace. I know all nature won't come there, but God will bring us there, because he'll give it to us.

He'll emanate from his love within us. He'll emanate from his love in our hearts. It will indeed. And while it will not leave us to universal charity, to put our arms around all and sundry, the name, the name of Christ, it will give us that love to his people.

It will give us that love to our loved ones. It will indeed. It will give us to feel forgiving love even to them. And I believe not only forgiving love, but I believe too that it's often accompanied with forgetfulness.

Yes. Why, my friends, why, my friends, aren't you sometimes brought into those places where you would have that love abound in thine heart continually?

Well, some of us feel we're soon to come to that place where we are to stand alone. And then to know that we are citizens of this kingdom, that we have a kingdom that cannot be moved, and that we have that grace in our hearts which is subdued all those things that we were the subjects of.

Why, I believe that when this grace is forgiving grace is an exercise and that conquering and enduring grace is an exercise, why, you see, we are like anything that can be molded, shapened, as it were, into any form we may desire.

Well, I believe it's the spirit of our dear Savior within sometimes. You know how he was when they dealt with him here on earth as wicked men did.

You see, he humbled himself, he did under the mighty hand, of his father, as he bore the stroke of divine wrath and divine justice, and so his people in some humble measure will have to bear that stroke upon them from time to time.

They'll be brought down, and down they will indeed, all here, we have to thank him and praise his holy name for his great goodness, in not permitting us to go on in our own way, not permitting us to go into those things that we were determined to go and to break down our wretched nature.

I wish I could go the rest of my life and have no more hard thoughts. Wish I could go the rest of my life and have no more evil thoughts against any.

I don't want to come to my dying bed with thorns in it. Satan has told me many times he'll give me a few, and he's tantalized and tormented me in my private moments.

But you know, he'll never say to you that God in his love and compassion has softened a dying pillow.

No. He'll tell you the worst, but you know, our dear Savior has softened a dying pillow. He's taken out those thorns that Satan would put in it.

[40:44] He's taken away those thorns in the flesh. He's taken away all those sins that molest you. He's taken away those things which Satan would endeavor to destroy you with.

And he's so extracted them that they should never be brought up against you in judgment. Though you may have many fears, and many sores on this account.

But this one thing I do know, that whatsoever man soweth, that shall he also reap. If he soweth under the flesh, he shall of the flesh, not made him, but he shall, shall of the flesh reap corruption.

And there's no man I feel on earth knowing that truth more than this sinner. for I've had to reap it in my latter days, the sins of our youth.

Those wild oats we sowed, we've had to reap them, my friends. And I fear and quake on these things, I fear I might even get after going to deeper things in that way.

[42:00] but I speak this having walked the path and tasted it as a kindly warning and I am sure that's the case. If we sow to the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption.

But if we sow to the spirit, we shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. so there is the two, the one I say is set over against the other.

So there is I hope we can say some of us, some being some sowing to the spirit, there is indeed. So that grace shall reign, it shall indeed.

Like one said since that auspicious day, often have we been constrained to say that grace triumph and reign. So it shall.

Let us have grace then, reigning grace, triumphant grace, that grace that shall reign over all our sins, grace that shall reign over all our misgivings, that grace that shall reign in the hour of the article of death, when we shall come to that place where none can help us and none can deliver us.

[43:31] Why, you know, it is not that I dwell upon death as you know, but it's a reality reality, and so that we're none of us here, the youngest, the oldest is not sure when that hour will come, but to be prepared for it by God.

We can't prepare ourselves as I'm sure. You know, I've heard it said sometimes when one has been taken suddenly, they said, well, they didn't have much time, did they?

Well, what have they got time for? I hope they don't mean to try and repent or do something for themselves, my friends, we should not have enough there to be able to do much there.

It's now. we want it now. Deathbed repentances, my friends, sometimes are only from fear of that what is before them.

Don't misunderstand me, there have been deathbed repentances, I believe, but you see, it might be under the stress and the strain of that condition through for you.

There may be some kind of fleshly repentance, but we want to know now that our souls are in the covenant, that he has redeemed us from the awful condition of the wicked, that when we come there we have him the eternal and everlasting rock, that we stand upon him secure, that when the billows and the rage and the winds blow upon us, we may be founded upon the rock, so that there should be no doubt in those things, in our soul's experience.

See, it doesn't mean there will be a lot of words spoken perhaps, oh no, but it is to have that inward witness, because there we've got to stand, as I've said so many times, alone, so that we shall want none other than our dear Savior, so that we shall need, that he shall hold his cross before our eyes, in that moment.

Lord, wherefore then we receiving a kingdom, which cannot be moved, well there will be then a day come, when there will be receiving a kingdom, an everlasting kingdom, an eternal kingdom, the kingdom above, the kingdom where our dear Savior now reigns, victorious, where our dear Savior sits upon the throne of mercy, the throne of grace, the throne where unto you and I may come, from time to time, all that kingdom, the kingdom where the saints shall reign, forever and ever, as kings and priests unto God.

Oh, what depths there are here, I wish I could get into it. But you see, we can only enter into it with that ability God gives, and also, as it is opened up to us, and revealed to us, here a little and there a little, from time to time.

But, you see, there is then that kingdom where our dear Savior reigns, and where he is even now, and beholds us here in his earthly courts, I believe, in our simplicity, before him, attempting to worship him.

[47:56] Isn't that a depth? Think that the great king of heaven condescends to men of lower state, even to look upon us, in our present need, and as we are before him now, in his earthly courts.

Oh, how merciful he is and great. Well, he said, here on earth, I am among you as one that serveth. Sweet humility, isn't it?

Not much like him, I feel sometimes, but his humility is null in that he condescends to come unto the violence of sinners, and unto his people as they meet together in his earthly courts.

grace. Wherefore, then, we receive the kingdom which cannot be moved. Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, for our God is a concealing fire.

May the Lord be pleased to have his blessed food. Amen. Amen.