

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

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Col. 3:3-4-For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

GOD'S SECRET PLACE

Is there really a secret place wherein God wants us to reside and to serve Him? Absolutely!! The above quoted Scripture is a powerful example of what the Lord is speaking about regarding this secret place.

It is imperative that you understand what occurred when Jesus died on the cross. When He died, you died, too. The old man passed away and a new man appeared. The old man who passed away was the “man of sin”. The new man who appeared was a “man of faith.”

This man of faith has the ability, by God's grace, to enter into the secret place that is reserved for those who are willing to serve Him on His terms; to serve Him at the highest possible level. The Scripture tells us that we are “hidden with Christ, in God.”

Jesus told us, over and over, that He only did the things the Father told Him to do and He only said the things the Father told Him to say. How could He do that? He could do that because He was hidden in God, the Father. Phil. 2:6 tells us that Jesus gave up His equality with God so that He could

live here on earth as the Son of Man, being subject to all of the same things that would affect each of us. That is why He is such a perfect example for us – not because He was God, but conversely, because He gave up His Godness and proved that lowly man could serve God at the highest level.

But in order to do so, we must do exactly what Jesus did. We must be hidden in God the Father. How do we do that? The same way Jesus did. We yield all that we are to Him. We give up – completely! We turn over everything that we are to God. Jesus wasn't just saying words when He said that we would have to die completely. He was giving us the necessary instructions for being hidden in God.

Look at the Scripture in Colossians again. We are to be so hidden with Jesus, in God, that when Jesus – who is our life – appears, we will appear with Him, in glory.

Can we grasp what is being said here? Jesus is our life. He is our whole life. These are not just words, friends. **These must be experiential truths that are part and parcel of who we are.** We are to be so hidden in Jesus that Jesus is our whole life.

Nothing else matters! We are to be so hidden that when Jesus appears, we will appear with Him, in glory. How can that be? It can be because we are hidden in Him. Wherever He is, we are. Wherever He goes, we go. Whatever He does, we do. We are literally hidden in Him. This is not an abstract thought process or an ideal to which we should aspire. It is the instructions that have been given us if we want to serve God on His terms at the highest possible level of servitude.

It this truth doesn't blow your mind, then your mind has become numb. It is not difficult to become lethargic and torporic, spiritually, at this time – especially with all that is occurring around us. But this is exactly why God is doing these great things at this time. **He is calling us out of this death-spiralling world into His secret place.** It is a place where God can do what He wants because He has a servant who is empty and transparent and who will allow Him absolute complete access to his earthsuit (this old goat on which we ride).

Remember – God doesn't bless the things we do for Him. He blesses the things He does through us.



Not only is this secret place a place of refuge and protection, but it is the place wherein God plans and executes His perfect will upon this earth. God has a plan that was put into effect before the creation of the world. **He has full intention of taking back all that the devil has temporarily stolen: souls, territory, and finances.** And He will use those who reside in His secret place to accomplish His plan.

A HOLY, WARRIOR REMNANT

You've heard it said here often in recent messages. God has and is raising up a holy, warrior remnant through whom He will bring about His will. We are that remnant, but we don't become part of it just because we want to. Rather, we must begin to serve God on His terms. And part of those terms is to recognize that we are to serve Him from out of the secret place of which we have been speaking.

This remnant will be holy. It will be so because God's purpose for us is to conform us to the likeness of Jesus (Rom. 8:29). When we become like Jesus, it is not so much that we then have become holy, but rather that we have become empty and transparent and the holiness of Jesus will shine through us.

This remnant will be a warrior remnant. We will

learn how to pray according to the perfect will of God. Read 1 John 5:14-15, memorize it, meditate on it, and recognize that it grants us confidence and faith as we pray. It grants us the ability to pray according to God's perfect will. It grants us access to the heart of the Father so that His will can and will be done here on earth as we proclaim and decree it so, through prayer.

We will find ourselves on the front lines of spiritual warfare. But we will not be there empty-handed. Hardly! **We will be there as empty vessels but fully armed.** We will be there in the full power of the Holy Spirit of God. And we will fight with authority: authority to demolish strong-holds, authority to call down the full power of Heaven; authority to bind and to loose; and authority to make manifest that which Jesus has already accomplished at the cross.

It is important for us to be able to tie all of these things together because, in fact, they go together. God is raising up a holy, warrior remnant. We are to be part of that remnant, as long as we are willing to do so on God's terms. We must recognize that God wants us to serve Him in that secret place, hidden with Jesus in Him. It is from that place of refuge and strength that God will exact His will upon the earth and accomplish His desires. And He will do so through those

of us who choose to serve Him at that level of servitude.

None of these things can be accomplished in our own strength. There are three things that God will not do for us: He will not repent for us; He will not yield for us; and He will not obey for us. He will, however, do everything else. In fact, He insists on doing everything else.

We have it backwards. We try to do God's job and we fail to do that which we are supposed to do. God doesn't need our help running the world. He is perfectly capable of doing so without us. He wants us to repent, to yield and to obey. Why? Because as we do those things, He can then do His thing which is to heal us spiritually and bring us to that place of servitude that is required at this time in history. And, so that we can enter that secret place and become a holy remnant warrior through whom He will redeem the earth for Himself.

DWELLING IN THE SECRET PLACE

There is another Scripture that parallels Colossians 3:3-4, and speaks of dwelling in this secret place. Ps. 91:1-*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the almighty.*

There is so much truth and so much power in this Scripture that we could

devote an entire book to it. When we think in terms of being hidden with Jesus, in God, we must consider Psalm 91. In order to dwell somewhere, you must live there. When you live somewhere, you take everything that you are with you. All of the things that comprise who you are go with you when you move to that new place: furniture, pots and pans, knick knacks. And we must do the same when we dwell in the shelter of the Most High. Why? Because God wants everything. All of the things that we thought we yielded to God (but did not) must go with us. That wallet, on which we still have a firm grip, must go with us. Our agendas and schedules, which hold a place far more dear to us than they should, must go with us. And when we get there, to the secret place, we must hand over to the Lord everything that we brought with us. He wants it all.

Matt. 16:25-*“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”* Luke 14:33-*“Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”*

Can Jesus say it any more plainly than that? We dwell in the shelter of the Most High, bringing with us everything that comprises who we are. And then we hand it over to Him. We yield completely. We allow God to do with us, and with those things that comprise who we

are, whatever He chooses. If He chooses to sanctify them and give them back, that is His business. If He chooses, however, to utterly destroy them, we must allow that, as well.

We cannot be hidden with Jesus, in God, if we continue to hold on to anything. Nothing can come between the Lord and us. What did we just read? *Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*

These are End of the Age scriptures, friends. There is a paradigm shift in the Church. And we need to shift with Jesus, whether our Church does or not.

ENTERING THE LORD'S REST

The second part of Psalm 91:1 states: ... *will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.* Let's read it in its entirety: *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

We dwell in the secret place. We dwell with Jesus. We are hidden with Him, in God the Father. This is the shelter of the Most High. It is a place of protection, a place of refuge; but it is also a strong tower, a place of offensive strategy and implementation.

It is a place where God dwells, where Jesus dwells, hidden in God, and where we dwell, hidden in Jesus. Who can get to us? No one! What

can the devil do to us? Nothing!

But God says that it is also a place of rest. He who dwells there will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Heb. 4:1,9-*Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God, for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.*

We are told that we must do everything that we can to make sure we enter this rest. That means, friends, that **we must do everything we can to make sure we dwell in the secret place of God.** When we do, we then rest. Rest from what? We rest from all the things that we had been doing, including all the things that we had been doing for God. God doesn't want us doing His work for Him. He wants to do His own work through us.

By entering His rest, we cease doing His work for Him. We cease doing things just for the sake of doing them. We become spiritual beings, operating in the divine order, dwelling in the secret place of God wherein also dwell the angels of God. We operate in the spirit realm. They don't need our help there. They have everything under control.

By the grace of God, we become spiritual vessels,

empty and transparent. We become conformed to the likeness of Jesus. We become vessels meet for the Master's use, and as He chooses, He will operate through us, bringing about His perfect will upon the earth.

We will see through the eyes of Jesus. We will love with His compassion, mercy and love. We will discern spiritual things.

John 14:12-*He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.* Jesus was speaking to His early radical disciples about operating in the secret place. It is to those who are willing to dwell in the shelter of the Most High that Jesus said: He will do even greater things than I did.

There is no limit to what God can and will do with those on whom He has put His mark and who have chosen to live in the secret place with Him.

But please understand, there are no shortcuts. Jesus said it as plainly as it can be said: *Any of you who has not given up everything he has cannot be my disciple.* We must serve God on His terms; and His terms are all-encompassing. God wants it all. If we are not willing to allow God to have it all, then we are not willing to serve Him at that high level. Don't lie to yourself. Face the truth.

And when we get there, when we begin to serve God from that secret place, we will rest. The peace of God

will transcend the natural busyness, the hectic schedules, the frantic give-and-go of life on the planet. God's rest will allow us to walk on the narrow road to holiness wherein the stench of sin does not reach; and wherein the yielding process continues to make us more like Jesus.

They are one and the same, friends. The narrow road to holiness (Is. 35:8), being hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3), and dwelling in the shelter of the Most High (Ps. 91:1). This is the place that God has reserved for those who are willing to serve Him at the highest level. And then, knowing and beginning to experience this magnificent operation, we read Col. 3:4-*When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

The promise of all promises. Live and dwell in the secret place. And when Jesus comes in glory, you will already be there with Him. How sweet is that?

SEMINAR

Every Tuesday, at 7:15PM, at Cornerstone Fellowship Church behind the Fredericktowne Mall, next to Ollie's Outlet, Peter will be teaching Radical Discipleship. All are welcome!

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