



NHCO Vision 2021

ONE WORLD

Jan 23-24

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WEEK FOUR

Study Notes and Questions for Discussion and Personal Reflection.

After hearing the message, by faith, summarize what God said to you _____

Hey everyone, welcome to WEEK 4 of ONE, our original series to start the New Year. Remember in Week 1 we learned that God's vision for His Church is that we become ONE. Notice that it's not something like "we want a thousand people in Church" or "we need more money for the building project." To be ONE is the way we live and exist with each other so that we can experience more and more of God's Presence. Then HE draws people to HIMSELF and provides everything HE needs for HIS building. See that?

Week 2 we learned that we can only become ONE when we are united with THE ONE, Jesus, who makes us ONE with the Father. If we follow any other VISION besides the Father's then we have DIVISION, not UNITY.

Week 3 we learned that because Jesus makes us ONE with the Father, we now become a multi-ethnic, multi-racial fellowship of very different people with different backgrounds all united in our love for God--THE ONE GENERATION.

Welcome to Week 4: ONE WORLD

Summarize what you have learned through our series up to this point _____

My wife, Mona, and I have been married for 37 wonderful years now. During that time I've been talking to her older brother, Bruce, about Jesus. About 5 years ago Bruce gave his life to

Jesus and now he volunteers at New Hope Sand Island. God has done a remarkable transformation in Bruce's life. But before he came to Christ, if I were to summarize our spiritual conversations over the last 30 years, our talks went something like this: Bruce: Muslims can't help believing what they believe because that's how they were raised. Same with Buddhists. Mike: Well, all of these philosophies are radically different and they can't all be right. Then I would make the case that Jesus is different because He is God, whereas Mohammed and Buddha never made that claim. We would go round and round on that for decades, until one day I said, "Bruce, Muslims are blowing themselves up in the name of Allah. They are betting their lives that what Mohammed said is true. Buddhists are setting themselves on fire, betting their lives that what Buddha said is true. Bruce, what are you betting your life on? And he said, "Jesus."

Before coming to Christ, what was Bruce's obstacle to faith? _____

What seemed to help him? _____

At this very moment, whether you realize it or not, you are betting your life on something. You're not saying it out loud, but the way you live your life, what you do every day, SCREAMS your core beliefs. My intention is NOT to disparage or belittle anyone's life. All I'm saying is that we can tell what you REALLY believe by how you spend the days of your life. If in your CORE what you REALLY believe is that this world is all there is, and all there ever will be, then you wake up every day, kiss the wife and kids, pet the dog, go to work, make money, buy food, eat, sleep, and do it all over again the next day. After Bruce came to Christ, he started going to Church. He's volunteering in a ministry. And he is actively praying and engaging and looking for ways to lead all his friends and family to Jesus. How we live every day reveals what we REALLY believe in our CORE.

If you were to be as honest and transparent as possible, based on your schedule and activities, what are your core beliefs about God's plan for the world? _____

You might be saying, "Ok, Mike, good point. So what's the plan? WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD? Beyond making sure I personally have come to Christ, and my family, what SHOULD I give my life to? Does God have a plan for the world? Don't we just go to Heaven when we die?" God DOES have a plan for this world. The BIBLE is not "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth" like the song says. Because we're not leaving the Earth behind. The BIBLICAL view of the Afterlife is not angels strumming harps on clouds. The Biblical view of Heaven is the Garden of Eden, Heaven on Earth. God's Presence filling the Earth. If you read the Book of Revelation, it says we will see a New Heaven and a New EARTH. The Earth will become the Garden of Eden again, where God and mankind live together in shalom, in peace.

So what does God have planned for the future of this world? _____

This week turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 3, where Paul explains that He got a HUGE DOWNLOAD on what God has in store for the world. Let's read this together. Ready, go:

"³ As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me" (Ephesians 3:3 NLT).

Wait, wait, pump the brakes a second. Paul says he briefly wrote something earlier about God's mysterious plan for the world. He did? Where? Let's go back to chapter 1:

"⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth" (Ephesians 1:9-10 NLT).

So what is God's mysterious plan for the world? Where are we going? What does the future hold? God REVEALS that at the right time--God's APPOINTED TIME--He plans to bring EVERYTHING under the authority of Christ. Everything in HEAVEN and on EARTH will become-- here we go--ONE under the AUTHORITY of Christ. So not only does coming to Jesus make us ONE with the Father and ONE with each other, God plans to make everything in the whole world ONE under Jesus. ONE WORLD.

According to Ephesians 1 and 3, what is God's mysterious plan for the future of the world? _____

Now let's continue in chapter 3...

"⁶ And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children" (Ephesians 3:6 NLT).

Remember we said last week that the Jews had a word for anyone who wasn't Jewish? Yeah, Gentiles. So Jews were God's "chosen" and then there's everybody else. But NOW Paul is saying that ANYBODY who believes in Jesus shares in the riches and inheritance of God's children EQUALLY. In the NEW WORLD governed by Jesus you won't have Google and Facebook executives making billions of dollars while the homeless have nothing. Everyone in God's future will have an equal inheritance. ONE WORLD ruled by Jesus. That's the future that God revealed to Paul and the Ephesians, and they are betting their lives that what Jesus said is true.

"²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself" (Ephesians 1:19-23 NLT).

How will the future world be governed? Who will lead the world? _____

What will the future world be like under the rulership of Christ the King? Use your imagination.

The Church in this generation is the key to helping the world come under the rulership of Jesus. The Church is supposed to be a microcosm of a what it's like when Jesus sits on the throne.

What part will the Church play in advancing the Kingdom of Jesus?

But before we get back to talking about how Christ unites us all into one world, we first need to comment on how Christ will divide us. What? Divide us? Uhuh, that's right. But I thought you said Christ was going to bring peace and unity to the world? He will. But do you think people are just going to step aside and let God have His way? We know they don't stand a chance against God, but you need to understand THEY have bet THEIR lives that THIS WORLD is all there is, all there ever will be. So they want the riches of THIS WORLD, not the riches of Christ. They want power and control, not God's power, not God's Kingdom. Knowing this full well, Jesus said:

⁵¹ Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! ⁵² From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against. ⁵³ 'Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law'" (Luke 12:51-53 NLT).

Describe why Jesus brings division and not just unity.

How many of us after we came to Christ experienced stress and tension at home? I know I did. My parents thought I had left the Catholic Church to become a Protestant. But after THEY gave their hearts to Jesus, they understood everything I was talking about. But before that we were a house divided! Christ will only bring unity if HE is recognized as King of kings and Lord of lords. If we hold anything in our hearts above Jesus, we will NOT have unity. We will be a house divided. If your money is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

If your job is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

If your family is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

If your ethnicity is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

If your politics is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

If your religion is more important than Jesus, we will not have unity.

Christ will only bring unity if HE is recognized as King of kings and Lord of lords.

So the reason we have DIVISION is because PEOPLE prefer to be king. People want to be lord of their own lives and be lord over other people.

If there is division in your family or with your friends, what is the issue causing the division? _____

How can this division be overcome? _____

People want to play god. I don't know about you but I really don't like a world ruled by billions of gods.

What did Pastor Mike mean by "a world ruled by billions of gods?" _____

From the world's point of view, Jesus is the one causing division! If only we didn't talk about all this God stuff everything would be fine. We could do whatever we want. Live any way we want. The world would be a better place without all this talk about God. Really? Have you figured it out yet? If Jesus is not King there will always be somebody who will crown himself king. During Paul's day, Caesar tried to take over the world. Before him Alexander. Before him Xerxes. How did that work out for the people of the world? Endless wars. Millions dead. During the deadliest war in history, America and her allies had to fight off several would-be kings: Hirohito, Mussolini, Hitler. Hitler slaughtered 6 million Jews.

Describe what happens to the world when it is ruled by a billion gods? _____

But what was the Greatest Holocaust ever perpetrated on mankind? Which would-be king slaughtered the most people in order to become god? Was it Comrade Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union--30 million dead? Or maybe Chairman Mao of the Chinese Communist Party--40 million dead? No, my friends, the greatest holocaust in the history of mankind is happening now and it's here in the United States of America. Since January 22, 1973, when the US Supreme Court passed Roe v. Wade, over 62 million babies have been slaughtered. For those of you who believe in the Black Lives Matter movement, over 18 million (29%) of those aborted babies were black. So if you're looking for racism in our country, start with Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. She purposely built her clinics in black communities to reduce the number of black babies born. As you can see I'm not a fan of a world run by billions of gods. This weekend is the 48th anniversary of the official beginning of the Great Holocaust against our children. There are Marches for Life scheduled across the country, but it will take more than protests and legislation to stop this. Because at its core the problem is always the same. When Jesus is not King then you are.

Where and when was the greatest holocaust ever perpetrated on mankind? _____

How many victims has there been in the greatest holocaust of all time? _____

What are your thoughts and feelings about this? _____

You do know that the Devil has slaughtered children before, right? In the Bible, twice before. And it's always prior to a HUGE move of God. Just before Moses came, the Devil got wind that God was going to deliver the Hebrews from slavery. So Pharaoh slaughtered the Hebrew boys trying to get to Moses. Pharaoh and the Devil failed and the nation of Israel was born. The prophets said that the Messiah was to come from the Hebrews. No Israel, no Messiah. But God's plan for the world could not be stopped. Then when it came time for the Messiah to be born, the Devil got wind of it again and slaughtered the children trying to get to Jesus. But God's plan for the world could not be stopped. Jesus was born. The world has a King. Do you see a pattern here? Whenever God is about to make a HUGE move in the world, the Devil gets wind of it and tries to stop it.

When God is about to do something big, what does the Devil do? When and how has the Devil done this in the past? _____

Why is the Devil engaged in a global slaughter of the children yet again? It's because God is about to carry out what I believe will be His final work of redemption in the world and the Devil is trying to stop Him. I believe we have reached the final stages of God's mysterious plan now revealed to unite the world under the rulership of Jesus, the King of kings. A few weekends ago we did a baby dedication here at the Hope Center. This baby's name was Noah Wilson. Noah Kahikianamaikeaupuni Wilson. Yes, THAT baby. If you remember last year just before our Coming Kingdom series a baby was born. In fact the baby was born on my Christian birthday, July 18. So this is really highlighted to me! Well, his mother, Erica, received in the Spirit that his Hawaiian name was to be Kahikianamaikeaupuni. She had never heard this name before so she calls her Papa Kaipo from Ni`ihau. They speak pure Hawaiian on Ni`ihau. And when she asked him what his name means, he said his name means, "The King is coming." Listen, Church, no one knows the hour of the Lord's coming, but we can look at the signs and we can tell that we're getting close. Personally, I believe Jesus will return in my lifetime. But remember the Biblical pattern. Moses survived Pharaoh's holocaust and the nation of Israel was born. Jesus survived Herod's holocaust and became the Savior of the world.

By faith what do you think God is about to do? Why is the Devil trying to slaughter this generation? _____

Listen to me now. How many of you were born AFTER January of 1973? Raise your hands. Do you realize you survived the Greatest Holocaust ever perpetrated on mankind? Over 62 million babies died in this holocaust. Why do you think you got to live? The Devil tried his level best to

wipe out your generation because your coming into this world means his time is short. The King is coming.

If you were born after 1973, why do you believe your life was spared from the greatest holocaust ever? _____

The Church in this generation is the key. But if the Church is God's means to teach others how to become ONE, then how can the WORLD learn to be ONE, if the CHURCH is not ONE? We will deal with that next week! But for now, can you see how we do not want a world that is NOT ruled by Christ the King? Wherever Jesus is NOT King there is division, despair, and death. But God's mysterious plan is now revealed. God plans to UNITE us as ONE WORLD under the leadership of Jesus the Messiah. The question is not "what's this world coming to?" but rather "what is coming to the world!" That's why I spend my days submitted to God's plan, doing a little more of His will every single day. Because no purpose of God can be thwarted. God's plan is unstoppable. He will do exactly what He says. He always does. Jesus WILL return to make us ONE WORLD. I'm betting my life on it. How about you?

In light of God's revelation, what are you betting your life on now? _____

How will your life change? What action step will you take? _____

If you agree with God's plan for ONE WORLD under Christ, pray with me. Say, "Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, thank you for your death and resurrection. I believe in You and I will follow You as you carry out Your plan to make us ONE WORLD with You as our King. In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I pray. Amen." Now tell the person next to you, "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it." And we'll see you next week as our ONE original series continues. ALOOO-HA!

In conclusion, would you write out your own prayer response to the Father? What has He revealed to you about your life? How will you respond? _____