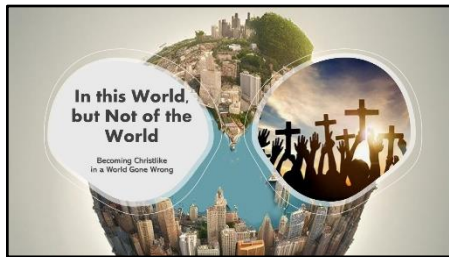


Becoming Christlike In a World Gone Wrong

Let's face it: as followers of Christ, we now find ourselves trying to navigate a self-absorbed world that has gone wrong. Today's world is filled with violence, deceit, sensuality, and every known sin to humankind — sin that is not only accepted by the multitudes but promoted without any sense of shame whatsoever. We live in polarized societies that promote hate and violence to those who disagree with a collective mindset set against Judeo-Christian morals. The challenge for all Christians is to exhibit Christlike morals and attitudes to those caught up in a world gone wrong. The passages below show how God's Word gives us good advice.



Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind (attitude-NASB) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Amid all that is going on in today's world, how should true disciples of Jesus respond in a world gone wrong? Jesus is our supreme example.

First, we must become increasingly like Christ as the Holy Spirit transforms us from glory to glory. To do this, we must yield to His transforming power.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not quarrel but **be gentle to all, able to teach, patient** ²⁵ **in humility correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth ²⁶ and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Secondly, we are to be patient and kind to those who are in opposition to God.

Thirdly, through humility and gentleness, we are to correct those who are in opposition to God and all that He stands for.

These are challenging times for God-fearing Christians. We can get swallowed up in the herd mentality or choose not to get squeezed into a world gone wrong. To avoid the squeeze of the world, we must put on the same garments as our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, making no provision for the flesh. The immense pressure to accept conformity to the world will continue to increase as this age ends. Now is the time to arise out of our sleep and clothe ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our current season demands that we diligently add to our faith the character traits Jesus exhibited as He walked in this earthly realm as Peter, the Lord's disciple, instructs us.

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2 Peter 1:5-11 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied.

Peter assures us if we diligently clothe ourselves in the fruit of the Spirit, we won't get squeezed into the world's mode. Instead, we will be fruitful in how the Lord has called us. He calls us to let our lights shine brightly amid a world gone wrong. We are to be a city on a hill. When we spew out venom rather than responding with a spirit of gentleness, our lights are covered and useless. We are the salt of the earth. If our salt loses its flavor due to negative attributes, it is worthless and good for nothing. Is this what we want our testimony to be? In a world where sin abounds, the Christian should be infused with an extra supply of grace, as the Word says, *"Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."*¹

We are entering a season where God gives an extra oil supply to those who are pressing in and embracing Christlike attitudes with a desire for a fresh anointing. They receive an increase in their anointing so that their lamps can shine brightly amid the spiritual darkness beginning to cover the earth.

Matthew 25:1-4 *Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels.*

As the Scriptures teach us, God has destined us to arise and shine in a darkened world. As a result, many will be drawn to our lights and ushered into the kingdom just as the prophet Isaiah prophesied.

Isaiah 60:2-3 *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you, ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Now is the time to prepare for this great harvest season by getting an extra supply of oil. Prophecies concerning the season of darkness are already upon us. This season is a time for faithful followers of Jesus Christ to get serious and walk as children of the light, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, awakened from our sleep. As we willingly embrace the darkness, Christ will give us light. We have come into the kingdom

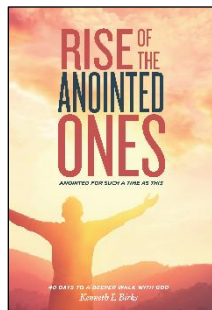
for such a time as this — being Christlike in a world gone wrong. As we do, it will give rise to God's anointed ones shining brightly.

May God bless you as you put on the armor of light by clothing yourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ while making no provision for the flesh.

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This devotional is one of 40 devotionals found in the book, "Rise of the Anointed Ones." For complete information on this book and other books that Ken has written, please click the image or the link below for details and pricing.

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¹ Romans 5:20