

THE WORD OF GOD

Sunday Morning: December 2, 2001

Text: Luke 8:4-9 "And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: 5. A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, **He that hath [present active] ears to hear [present active], let him hear [present active]**. 9. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?"

This parable is a special message to a special people. Notice the Lord said in verse 8 that *He that hath ears to hear*. It is significant that the word *hath* is in the present tense and the word *hear* is also in the present tense. It says that *he cried* which means he said with a loud voice for emphasis. Some of you have been given ears to hear and you need to hear this parable message continually. This message is a message you will want to hear all the time.

We need the thoughts of the following two passages.

MILK AND MEAT

Hebrews 5:13-14 "For every one that useth **milk** is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14. But strong **meat** belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

I want to remind us that there is the milk of the word and the meat or solid food of the word. The Bible contains milk and solid food which is the solid part of the milk which is butter. The milk is for those who are young in the Lord to encourage them not to be carnal. Milk is provided for the lost so that they can learn what they must do to be saved. The milk of the Word helps the young child of God know that their salvation is secure. Your salvation can not be lost or forfeited. The milk of the Word helps to understand that God cares about his children and that he has made provision for us and will take care of us.

The milk of the word is for those who are still having problems in their live for the Lord and that they can be delivered from those problems and that their sins can be forgiven.

In contrast to the milk of the Word is the Meat of the Word. The word *meat* is really solid food. The solid part of the milk is the butter. It is through churning of the milk that we are able to get the solid food or the butter. It is the butter that helps us to do what the Lord was able to do as found in Isaiah 7:15 "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good."

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, MILK

2 Timothy 3:15-17 "And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures**, which are **able to make thee wise** unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16. All **scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17. That the man of God **may be perfect, thoroughly furnished** unto all good works."

This passage, I believe, is a reference to the milk of the Word. It is the *holy scriptures* that contain what the child of God needs for correction and reproof as well as good works. Included in the *holy scripture* is the meat of the word which is referenced as the salvation through faith.

This salvation through faith is the salvation is being revealed in these last days. 1 Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." and 1 Peter 1:9 "Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls." This salvation pertains to the coming kingdom of the heavens. Notice that the *holy scriptures* also include instruction in righteousness. This instruction in righteousness is what is needed to discern between good and evil.

Now let us go back to Luke 8 to learn what is to be heard by those who have ears to hear.

THE WORD OF GOD, MEAT

Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**"

The Lord's disciple had asked the question *What might this parable be?* We are not going to teach the parable, but we need this parable to help us to understand something about *the word of God*. The definition of what the seed is the significant part. The seed is the *word of God*. We will find out what *the word of God* is in verse 10.

THE SEED DEFINED

Luke 8:10 "And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God:**
..."

The word of God is defined as the mysteries of the kingdom of God. I see a distinction between the *holy scriptures* and *the Word of God*. The *holy scripture* or *all scripture* has to do with the milk of the Word, but *the Word of God* presents the *mysteries of the kingdom of God* which is the meat or solid food.

BRETHREN HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 8:21 "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my **brethren** are these which **hear** [present active] the **word of God**, and **do** [present active] it."

Who is it that *hears* and *does* the *Word of God*? It is the brethren. Who are the brethren? Brethren are those in the family that continue to hear the *Word of God*. Because of the present tense of the participle *hear*, they are the ones who listen continually and they **want** to hear the *Word of God*, or the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens, and they want to hear that message a lot. From Luke's account in 8:8 the brethren are those who have been given ears to hear. The brethren are those who have been *given to know* these mysteries. Not all of the saved have been given this privilege.

DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

This verse tells us that a brother wants to do the will of the Father. The will of the Father is revealed in the solid food called *the Word of God*.

Why does a brother want to do the will of the Father?

ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Who wants to do the will of the Father? A brother. A brother is one who wants to hear the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens and to obey what is taught in those mysteries. A brother is one who wants the meat of the scripture which is the Word of God. A brother is one who wants to do the will of the Father so, as this verse states, can *enter* into the kingdom of heaven. Make no mistake, there is a difference between **seeing** the kingdom of the heavens

and **entering** into the kingdom of heaven. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens is to be involved in the administration of the Lord as the King of kings and Lord of lords during the Millennium. He is not ruling today as he will be in His kingdom. Do not give God credit for the evil that is going on in the world today. Satan is still the God of this world and is still in charge of the affairs of the Word.

A brother is one who hears the Word of God and does the Word of God so that he can enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Just seeing the kingdom of heaven is not enough for a brother.

BLESSED ARE THEY

Luke 11:28 "But he said, Yea rather, **blessed** are they that **hear** [present active] the **word of God**, and **keep** [present active] it."

In verse 27 someone was saying to the Lord that your mother sure was blessed to have you as her son. The Lord turned that around and said that the really blessed are those who want to and continue to hear the Word of God and then continue to keep it. The word *keep* also includes the meaning to *preserve* and *obey* it. This thought carries with it zeal on the part of those who are hearing the *Word of God*.

MEAT OF THE WORD

Hebrews 4:12 "For the **word of God** is **quick** [present active], and **powerful**, and **sharper** than any two edged sword, **piercing** [present active] even to the **dividing** asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is a discerner* of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

This verse tells us that the meat of the Word is *living* and *powerful*, effective, or active. The word of the kingdom is sharper than a two edged sword. It is the sword of the spirit in Ephesians 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" The mysteries of the kingdom of the heaven affects us where no one can see and that is the inner man. This message changes the heart out of which come the issues of life.

The following passages will, I believe, affirm this thought about the World of God.

PHILIP PREACHED CHRIST

Acts 8:5 "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **preached Christ** unto them."

Philip preached Christ unto them. In the next verse we find out what preaching Christ means.

PHILIP PREACHED KINGDOM OF GOD

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Philip **preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God**, and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women."

The preaching of Christ is *preaching things concerning the kingdom of God* as well as *the name of Jesus Christ*. (The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are used interchangeably.)

SPEAKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Acts 1:3 "To whom also he showed himself . . . and **speaking** of the things pertaining to the **kingdom of God**:"

After the Lord was raised from the dead he had a 40 day ministry to the Apostle and disciples. During that time he spoke of things pertaining to the kingdom of God. When the kingdom of God is established, Israel will be restored to her land and rightful place among the nations. After hearing about the kingdom of God, the Apostles ask him a question in Acts 1:6.

Acts 1:6 "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the **kingdom to Israel**?"

I brought these verses to our attention so that we can see that the kingdom of God has to do with the kingdom being restored to Israel. That will take place at the end of the Church age.

WORD OF GOD RECEIVED

Acts 8:14 "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **received the word of God**, they sent unto them Peter and John:"

The apostle in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had received the *word of God*. The mysteries of the kingdom of God were denied to the Samaritans during Christ's ministry here on the earth. Philip stopped in Samaria and preached the mysteries of the kingdom of God to them and they received it. Peter had the keys to the kingdom of heaven so he went to Samaria and they received the evidence that this message was opened to them.

This passage in Acts just affirms that the *Word of God* is a special message of the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens. The *Word of God* is not milk but meat.

Many times I have held up the Bible and said "this is *the Word of God*." I just found out that the Word of God is in this book, *the holy scriptures*.

PETER PREACHED THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Acts 10:36-37 "**The word which God sent unto the children of Israel**, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) 37. That word, *I say*, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the **baptism which John preached**;"

Here in Acts 10 we find Peter preaching the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Peter was preaching *the word which God sent unto the children of Israel*. This message was a message of peace and it was after the baptism which John preached. John preached *repent and be baptized for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*.

Peter was a bit nervous being in the home of a Gentile. He told Cornelius in verse 28 that it was unlawful for a Jew to keep company with anyone of another nation. Peter had learned his lesson not going unto the Gentiles with this message of the kingdom. He should have suspected something had changed when he saw what had happened in Samaria.

THEY RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 11:1 "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also **received the word of God**."

What Peter was preaching to the Gentiles is what was preached to Israel and also the Samaritans and that was *the Word of God*.

This is further evidence that the kingdom message should be associated with the phrase *the Word of God*.

THE WORD OF GOD TO ISRAEL

Acts 13:24-26 "When John had first **preached** (kingdom of God) before his coming the **baptism of repentance** to all the **people of Israel**. 25. And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose. 26. **Men and brethren, children [sons]** of the stock of **Abraham**, and whosoever among you **feareth God**, to you is **the word of this salvation** (kingdom of God) **sent**."

Paul also preached the *Word of God* in Acts 13. I want to continue to affirm that the *Word of God* is the message of the kingdom of heaven.

Paul was preaching this message that John preached to both Jew and Gentile in this passage of scripture. This message was a kingdom message that John and Jesus preached to only the

nation of Israel. Paul addressed the Jew in verse 26 and I believe the Gentile as well when he included the phrase *and whosoever among you feareth God*. This message of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven was a salvation message as well. The salvation message was not being born from above but a salvation message of deliverance of the nation of Israel by the Messiah.

(I want to make a comment about *this salvation* because it sounds confusing equating kingdom messages with salvation. When one believes on the Lord Jesus he is saved, Acts 16:30, 31. When one is just and lives by faith he is also saved. You find this in Matthew 19. The rich man was just but did not want to live by faith and walked away. Peter responds to what the Lord says about the rich who are just but not willing to trust him in Matthew 19:24-25 "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 25. When his disciples heard *it*, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, **Who then can be saved?**" This is not the same salvation in Acts 16:30-31.)

WORD OF GOD TO GENTILES

Acts 13:44-48 "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to **hear the word of God**. 45. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that **the word of God** should **first** have been spoken to you (Israel): but seeing ye put it from you, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting [age-lasting, (kingdom age)] life**, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47. For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and **glorified the word of the Lord [God, ASV, B, D]**, : and **as many as were ordained to eternal [age-lasting kingdom] life** believed."

The whole city gathered to hear the *Word of God*, but the Jews saw to it that this would not happen in verse 45. Paul was able to tell those who were opposing him that the *Word of God*, gospel of the kingdom, had been preached to them first. Paul was very blunt when he said, "Seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting (age-lasting, or kingdom) life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." When the saved Gentiles learned that they could now receive mysteries of the kingdom of heaven they were glad and glorified *the Word of God*.

In the King James Bible it has *the word of the Lord*, but in the American Standard Version it has *the word of God* instead. The Vaticanus and Cantabrigiensis manuscripts support this translation and it is consistent with the context.

These that believed the *Word of God* were ordained to receive it. The message of the *Word of God* is not a message for the lost, as in the case of the Philippian Jailor, but to saved who were given ears to hear.

SPAKE THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 16:30-33 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?** 31. And they said, **Believe [aorist active imperative]** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be **saved**, and thy house. 32. And they spake unto him the **word of the Lord [God, Nestles-24, B, X]** (mysteries of the kingdom of God), and to all (the saved) that were in his house. 33. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was **baptized**, he and all (that received the word of God) his, straightway."

Here is Acts 16 we have a Gentile who was a Roman soldier and a warden of the prison in Philippi. Any time a warden of a Roman prison lost any prisoners it cost him his life. The way

that he lost his life was by mean of crucifixion. This Roman soldier did not want to be executed by crucifixion, therefore he was going to kill himself with his sword. This jailor also knew that he wasn't ready to die, so he as Paul and Silas what he needed to do to be saved. Paul gave him the milk of the word and told him to believe on the Lord Jesus and he would be saved. Paul used the aorist tense of the verb believe so that the jailor would know that one time would be enough to be saved. Not only could the jailor be saved but anyone in your house can be saved as well, they needed to believe on the Lord Jesus.

In verse 32 there was a change in the message. Paul spake what? The *Word of God*. The Vaticanus manuscript has the word *God* in place of the word *Lord*. I believe it should be translated *God* because the jailer was baptized. If you do not receive the word of the kingdom you will not be baptized. Apparently the jailer and his house responded to the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven because they had ears to hear the *Word of God*.

When Philip, in Acts 8, taught the Ethiopian eunuch from Isaiah he opened unto him the Word of the kingdom. We know that he preached Christ also because he included baptism in the message. We see what the eunuch said in Acts 8:36-37 "And as they went on *their way*, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is water*; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37. And Philip said, If thou **believest** [present active (not aorist)] with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I **believe** [present active indicative] that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." What is the significance of Jesus being the Son of God? We are believing that God raised Jesus from the dead and appointed him as our high priest after the order of Melchisedec. You can see that in Hebrews 5:5-6 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6. As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

THE WORD OF GOD, KINGDOM MESSAGE

1 Thessalonians 2:11-13 "As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, 12. That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto **his kingdom** and glory. 13. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received **the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, **the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe** [present active participle]."

The context is that of walking worthy of His kingdom and glory. This passage is not a passage dealing with salvation as in the case of the jailer in Acts 16:30-31. This passage is encouraging those at Thessalonica to a worth walk leading to His kingdom and glory.

God has called many, not all, saved to rule and reign with Christ. This is not calling lost people to get saved. You do not have to walk worthy to be saved, but you do have to believe that Jesus died for your sins according to the scriptures, the milk of the word. When it comes to the kingdom and glory of his kingdom, you have to walk worthy of it. If you live in sin, you will not rule and reign with Christ.

Paul tells them that *the Word of God* effectually worketh in those who are believing in the present tense. If you are not faithful the meat of the Word does not work. The *Word of God* does not work for those who can't make up their minds to follow God wholly or not. It takes a desire to walk worthy of the Lord for the meat of the word to work. It is the meat of the Word that gives insight into a worthy walk.

You may feel like it costs too much to walk worthy of the Lord. You may lose friends you don't want to lose. I may have to do without sometimes and trust the Lord to care for me. I may be

sick and can't get well and still trust God that he has the best plan for my life. There was a time in the life of Job that he thought he would never get well. Job trusted the Lord and never accused him falsely.

LACKING IN FAITH

1 Thessalonians 3:10 "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

What was on the heart of Paul concerning those at Thessalonica. Two areas concerned Paul. One was love for the brethren and their faith. Paul knew that faith would not work apart from love. He wanted to perfect that which was lacking in their faith. How was Paul going to perfect that which was lacking in their faith?

FAITH BY THE WORD OF GOD

Romans 10:17 "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God.**"

Romans 10:17 give us a clue how this works. The word faith comes from a Greek word that carries the thought of the spoken Word. It is the foolishness of preaching that will save the ones believing in the present tense. 1 Corinthians 1:21 It is by the spoken word of God that faith is built up.

What is the burden of my heart here at Grace Bible Church? My burden is to preach and teach the *Word of God* which is the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. I know that by preaching about the coming kingdom your faith will increase. I also know that if your faith increases that you will be pleasing God. Hebrews 11:6 "But **without faith** *it is impossible to please him: . . .*"

How does faith come? By hearing the *Word of God*. By hearing the meat of the Word. By hearing the Word of the kingdom.

According to Romans 10:15 "And how shall they **preach**, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that **preach** the gospel of **peace**, and bring glad tidings of **good things!**" The gospel of peace and good thing (to come) speak of the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

BY THE WORD OF GOD

1 Peter 1:23 "**Being born again** [anagennaw, begotten again, only hear and 1:3], not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible (seed, which is the mysteries of the kingdom of God, Luke 8:10,11), **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever."

When the Philippian jailor believed on the Lord Jesus he was born from above as found in John 3:3 "Except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God." This is where the milk of the Word provides blessing for those who are not in the family.

When the Philippian jailor believed the *word of God* and was baptized in Acts 16:32 and 33 he was begotten again by the incorruptible seed and became a brother seeking to enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

LIVING HOPE OF KINGDOM LIFE

1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten us again** [anagennaw, begotten again, only here and 1:23] unto a **lively hope** by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

The *Word of God* provides insight into the mysteries of the kingdom of God. One insight is that there is a difference between *seeing* the kingdom and *entering* into the kingdom of God. Being born from above will allow us to see the kingdom of God. When we have been begotten again by the *Word of God* which is the mysteries of the kingdom of God we are given a hope of better

things in the kingdom of heaven. This is what is expressed in 1 Peter 1:3. Being begotten again gives us a living hope. The living hope is to have an heavenly inheritance. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that hope would be dead. Our faith would be vain. Our heavenly inheritance is kept in place by faith. If we depart from the faith that inheritance is forfeited.

Jesus Christ is our high priest after the order of Melchisedec and that has to do with good things to come. What are those good things to come? Hebrews 11:20 "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come." will help us to understand the good things that are coming. The blessing of Jacob over Esau was that of position and inheritance. Jesus was raised so that our faith would be effective in assuring us our inheritance in the kingdom of the heavens.

CORRUPT SEED

2 Corinthians 2:15-17 "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: 16. To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who *is* sufficient for these things? 17. For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

There are two seeds in 1 Peter 1:23. The two seeds are the incorruptible seed and the corrupted seed. When the seed was sown during the ministry of Christ, the seed was not corrupt. Down through the ages the message of the mysteries of the kingdom of God have been changed, thus it has become corrupt. They have changed the mysteries of the kingdom of God into the milk of the Word when in reality it is meat. Who does the corrupting? From the context of verse 17 it is those who have departed from the truth. Those who depart from the Word of God are the ones who are perishing in verse 15.

Verse 17 states that it is the many that corrupt the *Word of God*. This word *many* in some manuscripts the word *rest, remaining, or remainder*. The Analytical Greek Lexicon as well as the Strong's give the root of the word *rest* as the word that means *to leave, to fail*. The ones who perish are those who depart from the truth and fall away making shipwreck of the faith. The word *perish* is a present middle verb. The present tense indicates it is a process and it does not happen all at once. The middle voice indicates it was a choice that they made for themselves. A reference is made of them in 2 Peter 2:17-22 "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18. For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much wantonness*, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." Those who perish are those who go back to the old way of thinking and refuse the light that gave them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

The living hope of glory is in the message of the *Word of God* which is found in the mysteries of the kingdom of God. When you receive and believe this truth, you are begotten again unto that living hope. That hope remains alive because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead.

TASTED THE WORD OF GOD

Hebrews 6:4-6 "For *it is impossible* for those who were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers** of the (ministry of) Holy Ghost, 5. And **have tasted the good word of God**, and the powers of the **world** [age, kingdom age] to come, 6. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame."

There is a warning that comes with knowledge of the *Word of God*. We can see that in Hebrews 6:4-6. They were given eyes to see and fed on the heavenly gift of an age-lasting inheritance. They were taught the *Word of God* by the Holy Spirit, so they knew the truth. They fed on the *Word of God* which are the mysteries of the kingdom of God. They saw the signs, wonders, and miracles that will be common in the coming millennial age. None of these blessings convinced them to be faithful and not fall away. If we fall away from the truths concerning the mysteries of the kingdom of God or heaven, there is a price to pay and that is shame and a wilderness inheritance.

All of the blessings of verses 4 and 5 revolve around the doctrine presented in the *Word of God*. This doctrine concerns the coming kingdom and reign of our Lord during the Millennium.

REMEMBER THEM WHO PREACH

Hebrews 13:7 "**Remember them** which have the **rule over you, who have spoken** unto you the **word of God**: whose **faith follow**, considering the end of *their* conversation."

The word *rule* in this verse is a reference to the elders in your church. As the pastor of this church I am not lording over the congregation, but leading the congregation. You want a pastor that will rightly divide the word of truth so that you can discern between the milk of the Word and the meat of the Word. The pastor that preaches and teaches the *Word of God* appreciates faith and its significance when it comes to entering into the kingdom of the heavens. As a pastor I want your faith to increase and I know that by preaching the *Word of God* your faith will grow. I know that as I preach the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, you will be reminded of the hope and Christ will keep that hope alive because he is our high priest. If I continue in the faith, I would hope that you would also do the same. The phrase *considering the end of their conversation* it seems to be saying consider the life style of those who rule over you, is it consistent with the message of the *Word of God*.

Verse 7 says to *remember them that have the rule over you*. I would hope that you would remember me in prayer that I would not fail the grace of God. Remember me in your prayers about the ministry of the *Word of God* that it will be given without compromise. Thank you for remembering Jean and me in so many ways, we have been encouraged.