Dear Open Door Family,

Well, Christmas is almost here when we celebrate the amazing plan of God. I wonder what it might have been like to be Simeon or Anna waiting for the coming of the Messiah, wondering WHEN God would fulfill His promises. We are so privileged to be able to look back on the birth of the creator and sustainer of the Universe. What an amazing thing to get a glimpse into how God fulfilled all those Old Testament prophecies through a little baby. But we also have the wonderful advantage of being able to read about Jesus life and especially His death and resurrection. Without Christmas there would be NO incarnation - without the incarnation there would be NO Savior (the perfect God-Man, Jesus dying for the sins of the world) -without the resurrection and ascension of Jesus we would have no hope. But Jesus came, lived, died, and rose again. He now rules at God's right hand, and in the hearts of those who have accepted His gift of salvation. May we be challenged this Christmas by these words from Matthew and Isaiah.

Matthew 6:30-33 *(NIV)*
So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek FIRST his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Isaiah 57:21 *(HCS) There is no peace for the wicked," says my God.*

How in the world do these two verses come together? We should be seeking to live in full and total submission and to the Kingship of Jesus in our lives. That is part of what it means to seek HIS Kingdom first. Anytime that we choose to pursue worry or fear, rather than Trust we are refusing the Rule of Christ in our lives. Whenever we turn away from the Lordship of Jesus we will NOT experience His peace. WHY? "What could be more wicked than to tell the Lord of the Universe that He cannot rule in an area of our lives." (B. Thrasher) As we finish another year, and celebrate the King who was born in Bethlehem, may we seek to live under the daily, minute by minute, rule of the Lord Jesus in our lives. May we experience His Peace because we are seeking His Kingdom and His Righteousness ABOVE everything else in life.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, may I seek to honor You in my life by crowning You King over every area, holding nothing back. I invite You my Lord, to rule over my fears, my passions, my desires, and my use of time. May I live out more and more each day the reality of Your rule in my life.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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