

The Spiritual City

Part 1

Nation Building Principles

The Spiritual City 1

- This is the second message in a series that describes the Doctrinal Foundations and the Distinctives of the Black Renaissance Movement.
- The objective of this movement is cultural renaissance through spiritual revival in the black community in one lifetime.
- This series is designed to inform the public and to enlist the support of believers in this movement to bring the Word of God to urban America in a powerful and pervasive way
- What a better time than during Black History Month

The Spiritual City 1

- In the last lesson we studied two concepts
 - A chain is no stronger than its weakest link
 - For every action there is a reaction
- We saw that the Pastor impacts the community in a powerful way through his ministry of the Word of God to the Congregation.
- The congregation in turn impacts the community through the witness of their lives and their lips.
- The purity and power of the Word in the Pulpit determines the spiritual, social, political and economic health of the community.

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- If the community is going backwards then the church is not accomplishing its purpose, because the Word of God is more powerful than
 - Human weakness
 - Unequal power relationships
 - Racism and discrimination

The Spiritual City 1

- We illustrated this truth through the death of a man named Uzza in 1Ch 13.
 - We demonstrated that neither sincerity, unity or praise was sufficient to save human lives if the man of God does not follow the Word of God.
 - We demonstrated that the guilt of David in mishandling the Word resulted in the death of Uzza three thousand years ago, and that a similar mishandling of the word today is resulting in the catastrophic loss of life in the black community.

The Spiritual City I

- Introduction
- There is a spiritual reality behind the physical reality Ps 127.1 Ephesians 6.12 2Kings 6.9-17 Genesis 32.1-2
 - Psalms 127.1-2 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep NASU

The Spiritual City I

- Introduction
 - There is a spiritual reality behind the physical reality Ephesians 6.12 2Kings 6.9-17 Genesis 32.1-2
 - Eph 6:12-13 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASU
 - In that spiritual reality there are both evil and holy influences

The Spiritual City I

- That spiritual reality exercises decisive influence over the physical world 2 Corinthians 4.4, Psalms 34.7, 2 Kings 19:35, Heb 1.14; Matthew 18:10, John 10:10
 - 2 Cor 4:3-5 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God
NASU

The Spiritual City I

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 - Ps 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. NASU

Two Aspects of Life

- The Physical Person
 - Physical life
 - Son
 - Husband
 - Father
 - Brother
 - Friend
 - Employee
 - Citizen
- The Spiritual Person
 - Soul Life
 - Spiritual Status
 - Saved or Lost
 - Spiritual Maturity
 - Spiritual Gifts
 - Assigned by God
 - Spiritual Ministry
 - Assigned by God

The Physical and Spiritual Life

- A persons life consists of his inward experiences but is more than these experiences
- A persons life consists of his interpersonal relationships, but it is also more than these
- Both a persons inward experiences and his outward relationships are decisively influenced by his spiritual life.
 - Ex: Ones decision to accept or reject Christ
 - Ex: Ones decision to live for Christ or for self

The Physical and Spiritual Life

- The function of the spiritual life is the key determinant of the quality of his overall existence
 - Not merely externals such as wealth, health, power, or popularity
 - The bible teaches that the spiritual life is the key to genuine and lasting fulfillment and a development of a personal sense of destiny

The Physical and Spiritual Life

- Matt 6:31-34
 - 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. NIV
 - Note the distinction between the spiritual and the physical life
 - All the physical elements emerge from the spiritual world, from the Father
 - Note that actions in the spiritual world yield outcomes in the physical world, “ all these things will be given to you as well”

The Physical and Spiritual Life

- Luke 12.15-21
 - 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (from New International Version)
 - Which orientation was most important in the parable to the well being of the rich man: spiritual or physical, and why.

The Spiritual City

- Just as there is the physical and the physical person, there is a physical and a spiritual city/nation.
 - The spiritual city is coterminous with the physical city- it exists in the same place and at the same time as the physical city
 - The spiritual city is invisible but has a real and decisive impact upon human history
 - The condition of the spiritual city determines the condition of the physical city, just as the condition of the spiritual man determines the condition of the physical man

Two Aspects of Society

- The Physical City
 - Population, People
 - Real Estate
 - Land
 - Buildings
 - Business enterprise
 - Government
 - Administration
 - Courts
 - Police
 - Military
- The Spiritual City
 - Souls
 - True and False Doctrinal Systems
 - Spiritually Gifted Persons
 - Spiritual Leadership
 - Elect and Fallen Angels
 - God

The Spiritual City

- The condition of each aspect of the spiritual city determines the overall health of the physical city.
 - **Souls:** Is evangelism functioning and flourishing
 - Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. NASU
 - **Doctrine:** Is true doctrine available to all or has false doctrine gained the ascendancy Hos 4.6 2Cor 3.16
 - Hos 4:6a My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. NASU

The Spiritual City

- The condition of each aspect of the spiritual city determines the overall health of the physical city.
 - **Gifted Individuals:** Are believer growing and using their gifts to the glory of God.
 - Eph 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, NASU
 - **Spiritual Leadership:** Are spiritual leaders exercising their responsibility to protect, feed and care for the church. Acts 20.28 1Pet 5.2-3

The Spiritual City

- The condition of each aspect of the spiritual city determines the overall health of the physical city.
 - **Spiritual Leadership:** Are spiritual leaders exercising their responsibility to protect, feed and care for the church. Acts 20.28 1Pet 5.2-3
 - Acts 20:27-31 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. NASU

The Spiritual City

- These are all participants in the spiritual city. The spiritual city is that real but invisible place where the issues of the physical visible city are actually resolved.
- The spiritual city is the place of the true battle; where the real battles are fought for the really lasting issues
- It is in this city, the spiritual city, where the victory is won or lost. As we will see, the weapons of this warfare are not dollars, nor votes, but the Word of God and faith.
- These are the weapons the church must master and it is here that the battle is currently being lost.