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SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

BOTH+AND — NOW + NOT YET

Warm-Up Question:

How is being engaged to be married an example of living in the “now, but not yet”?

**READ: 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12; Phil. 3:10-14
Romans 8:18-19, 22-25; Rev. 21:1-5**

I. NOW + NOT YET: EXPLAINED

- ▶ Think about a 1st century Jew’s perspective on the Messiah coming. Why was it reasonable in their minds to think that God’s kingdom would fully come when Jesus first came?
- ▶ What did Jesus do to demonstrate the kingdom **had now come** in some ways but **not yet fully come** in other ways?
- ▶ From the verses you read. Describe the ways that they describe ways the kingdom **has already come**, & then how the kingdom has **not fully yet come**.

II. NOW + NOT YET: APPLIED

- ▶ **Assurance of Salvation:** In what way is your salvation **already secured**, & in what way it’s **not yet fully accomplished**? See John 6:40 & Romans 8:23–24.
- ▶ **Sanctification:** In what ways are we **already** sanctified (made holy, becoming like Jesus) & also **not yet fully** sanctified? How does this encourage you in your process of being more like Jesus? (See 1 Cor. 6:11 (already) and 2 Cor. 7:1 (not yet); Heb. 10:14 (both))
- ▶ **Pain & Suffering:** The “Not-Yet” reminds us that we will still suffer in this life, that glory is yet to come. The “Already” gives us hope that God’s comfort and healing are still at work. What are some other implications of forgetting one side or the other? (See Rom. 8:22-25)
- ▶ **Engaging the World:** God’s kingdom has been “coming” and growing ever since Jesus first came and inaugurated the “end times.” What are the most encouraging ways you have experienced that God’s Kingdom has come in some real sense? What are the ways you most feel that his kingdom has “not yet” come, and you long for it to come? (Think about your marriage, parenting, work, retirement, growing old, suffering, relationships, etc.)

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

“The kingdom of God is already present but not yet complete; we already enjoy the first fruits of the Spirit, but we await the fullness of redemption.”

- Anthony A. Hoekema

For Prayer:

- Praise God for all the ways his kingdom has influenced your life and our world in real ways
- Pray for an area of brokenness (personal or in the world) you long for God’s kingdom to come more now



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

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Scriptures Used

1John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1Cor. 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Phil. 3:10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Phil. 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Rev. 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Rom. 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

1Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

2Cor. 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.