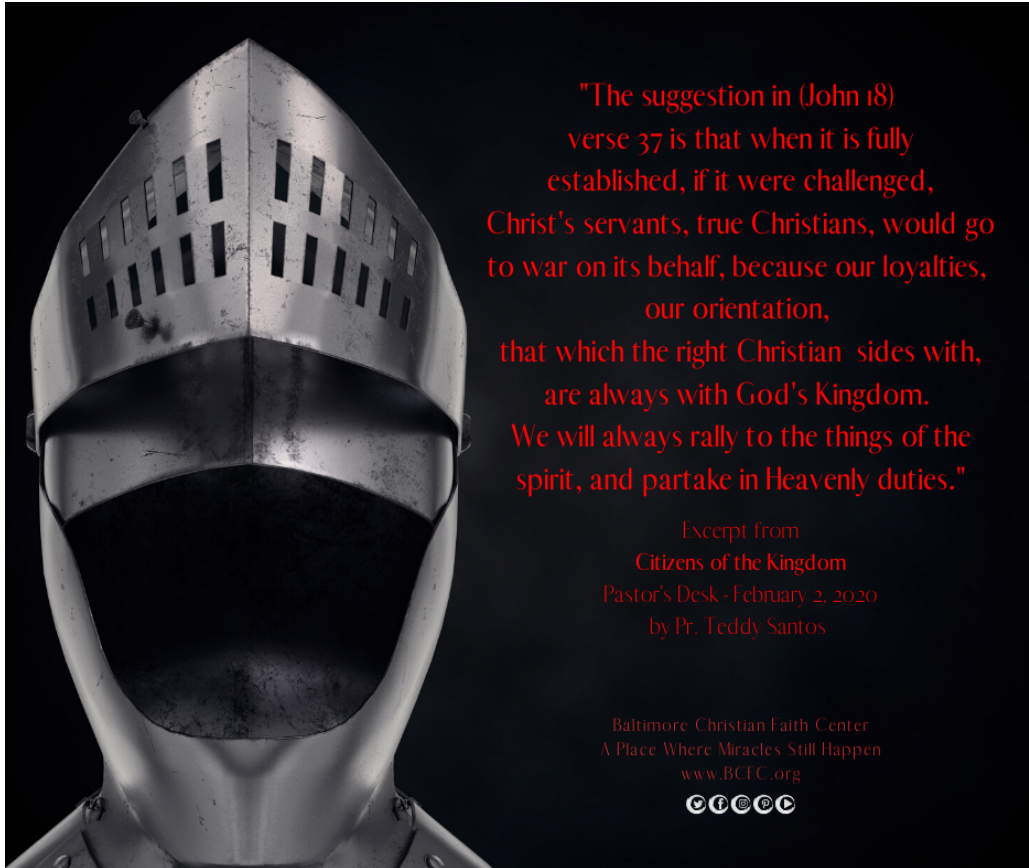


Citizens of The Kingdom

Pastor's Desk – February 2, 2020



John 18:36-37 (36) *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

The Lord clearly shares two variances about Himself in these verses. First, He says that He was not really a part of the Jewish nation, and further, not really of this world. Second, He says that if His Kingdom were of this world, His servants would fight for Him. The suggestion is that because they are not of this world, they do not go to war because His Kingdom on this earth is not presently established.

This statement presents us with a vivid example of "us and them." The basis of this is that a Christian's loyalty is elsewhere. A devout Christian always sides with the spirit, while the merely professing Christian sides with the world, claiming to know God and to worship God, but denying Him by his/her behavior.

God has given us an explicit command to come out of this world in 2Cor 6:17: *Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU"* and He clarifies it with examples such as this.

In Philippians 3:20, He says through the apostle Paul that our citizenship is in heaven, and anyone familiar with the Bible ought to understand the legal ramifications of that. Not only that, we know that His Kingdom is here only in spirit; it is not fully established as part of the global systems.

The suggestion in verse 37 is that when it is fully established, if it were challenged, Christ's servants, true Christians, would go to war on its behalf, because our loyalties, our orientation, that which the right Christian sides with, are always with God's Kingdom. We will always rally to the things of the spirit, and partake in Heavenly duties.

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos