A Look at the Last Page

Luke 12:22-34

Introduction

These words of Jesus urge us to trust God completely, to look for the coming Kingdom, to allow God to enthrone Himself in our hearts, to let Him <u>be</u> our heart. Such a trusting reliance brings great blessings, and fulfills our deepest needs.

I. <u>The Kingdom is at hand</u>. Where?

- A. In the common experiences of life, in positive give and take, in the nurturing warmth of selfless love.
- B. In the life of the Son of God, in the spirit, not only the letter, of the Word of God, in a God-centered Principled life.
- II. <u>The Kingdom is "God with us."</u> How do we know this?
 - A. When our spiritual vision remains clear despite persecution and struggle.
 - B. When our lifestyle and the way of the world conflict, and we gladly choose to be rejected by the world.
- III. <u>The Kingdom is a gift</u>. Why do we have to seek for it?
 - A. The effort involved in seeking develops gratitude and spiritual depth.
 - B. The effort involved in seeking helps keep the physical and spiritual world in proper perspective.
- IV. The Kingdom is fulfilled in Christ
 - A. The course of restoration in history points in Christ.
 - B. In Christ we see the one True Man, the reflection of the fatherhood and motherhood of God.
 - C. In Christ we see what is possible for all of creation to be a "sneak preview," a look at the last page of the Book of Life.

Conclusion

The promises of God are the same as fulfilled reality. We <u>can</u>, <u>must</u>, and <u>shall</u> be all that God purposes for us: "It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."