

The Eternal Kingdom The Fullness of Time

Lesson #1

March 6, 2019

By Scott Spencer

There are moments and times in our lives when it seems the blinders have been removed from our eyes and we can see things more clearly. I feel confident that if you attend this class, come prepared to learn in this class, you will experience many ah ha moments (I'm not talking about the 80's rock band either).

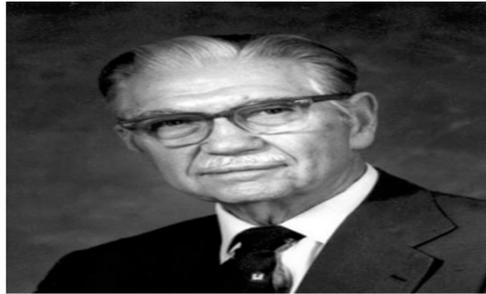
My time frame with regards to teaching this class is for two whole quarters, which means we will be ending sometime in August. At the end of August, I plan on taking a cruise... in my around Fairborn for a very long time.

My goal for this class is no different than it was when we studied "The Eternal Plan". First, it is to educate ourselves. Two, educate others.

Hopefully you have your books.

Let's talk a little bit about the author of the book. There is a nice little write up about F.W. Mattox on page vii by John McRay (let's read it).

**F.W. Mattox
1909-2000**



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Dr. F. W. Mattox, founder and first president of Lubbock Christian University died Friday, March 16, at 3 p.m. in Searcy, Arkansas at the age of 91. Funeral services were held at the College Church of Christ Monday, March 19. It is largely to the tenacity, vision, and enthusiasm of this great man that Lubbock Christian University exists today.

Dr. Mattox served as president of LCU from its founding in 1956 until his retirement in 1974. During his 18 years as president, he watched it grow from a few temporary buildings in a cotton field to an established four-year college and from a student body of 110 students in 1956 to one of 1100 students in 1974. According to Dr. Harvie Pruitt, LCU's third president and a faculty member under Dr. Mattox, 'It'd be really hard to overemphasize the great work he did starting the college from scratch. In those years, he did a little bit of everything.' He recruited teachers, oversaw construction of the campus's first permanent buildings, enlisted trustees and sought private donations.

A native of Texas, Dr. Mattox was born in Grand Falls in 1909. He received his B.A. degree from Central State Teacher's College in Edmund, OK in 1934; his M.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1940; and his Ph.D. degree from George Peabody College in Nashville, TN in 1947. He was married to the former Mildred Formby in 1929. They had two children, Mrs. Reese Bryant and Dr. Joe Mattox, and seven grandchildren.

The dream of Dr. Mattox's-- to provide a quality education in a Christian environment for countless students in Lubbock, TX has certainly come true. It will serve as his great legacy as Lubbock Christian University continues to go about its mission of 'changing lives'.

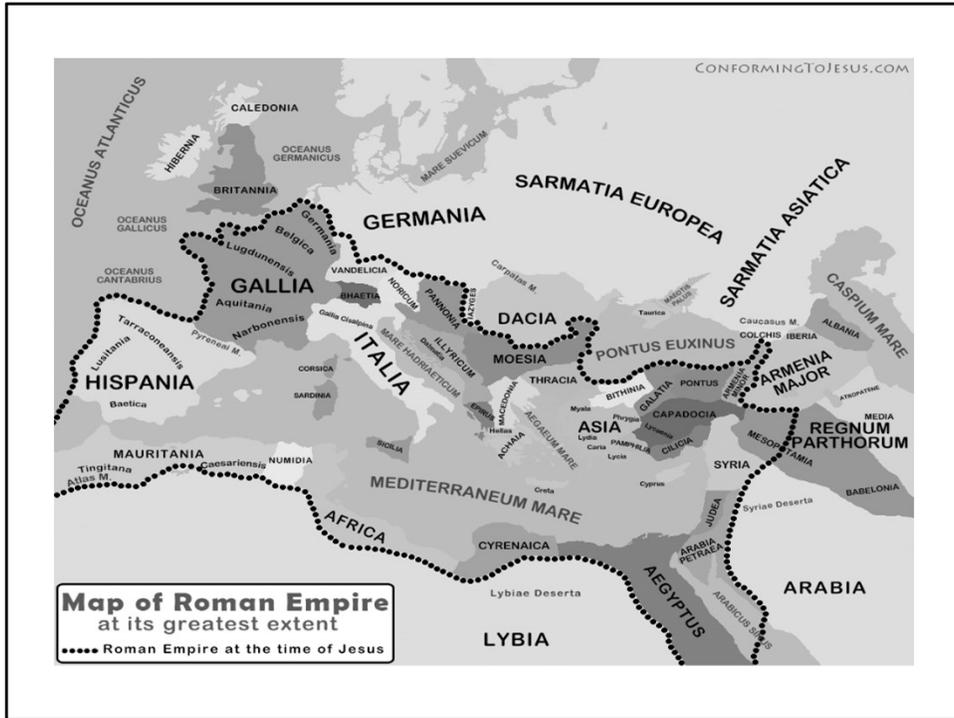
Let's jump into the book shall we?

Chapter One

- The cross of Christ was and is the central point for all of mankind
- God had a plan (1Pt.1:20; Gal.3:24)
- The fullness of time came for the man (Gal.4:4)
- In order to understand the history of the Lord's church, it is imperative that we understand the social, philosophical, and religious movements when the church began

The Roman Government

- List some ways that the “central government” helped prepare the world for the Messiah
 - Restored Peace
 - It opened the world to trade and travel
 - Excellent roads were built
 - Common Coinage
 - Pirates were removed from the Mediterranean



From shore to shore on the Med, it was 6000 miles.

The Roman Government

- The Downfall of the Romans
 - Slavery (Disgraceful and Unprofitable)
 - Taxes (Annual Tax and Direct Tax)

The Social Order

- The Emperor was at the very top of the social order. Name the rest.
- There were more slaves than freemen
- How are they described?
- How could one unfortunately become a slave?
- The government ensured social disorder by not offering fair opportunities for all people

Moral Conditions

- What examples does Mattox use in depicting the moral fiber of Jesus' day?
 - Marriage wasn't sacred
 - Life wasn't sacred (abortion, suicide and barbarianism)
- In what ways is America like Rome?

Religions of Rome

- Mystery Religions
- Zoroastrianism
- Mithraism
- Roman Religion
- What were five facts Mattox illustrates glaring differences between pagan religions and Christianity?

Mystery Religions: The Roman empire was a vast melting pot of many people who had lots of baggage. The baggage included superstitions and religious beliefs.

Zor and Mith: (Read book). What do these religions share in common with Judaism? See any similarities?

Roman Religion: There was no “separation of church and state”. The state was the church. The Emperor was god. Government officials were priests.