

# The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #12

May 29, 2019

In our previous lesson we spent most of our class period discussing worship. We talked about the importance of John 4:24. We discussed that the only acceptable worship unto God is what we see by way of commands, examples, or inferences.

Tonight I would like for us to consider “The Manner of Life” the early Christians possessed and portrayed. And if we have enough time we will transition over into a period of time ranging from 100 AD to 300 AD.

## Manner of Life

- After reading all paragraphs of “Manner of Life”, Mattox shared the following:
  - Three things Christians shared (faith, hope, and possessions).
  - When souls were converted to Christ in Jerusalem, and they remained there to learn from the Apostles; they went broke, what was the solution to resolve this?
  - What was a “love feast”? (2Pt.2:1-3; 12-13; Jude 3-4; 12-13).

After reading Mattox’s information, there were three things the believers shared 1. Faith, 2. Hope, and 3. Their possessions.

Let’s discuss this for a moment. How do you share your faith and your hope with someone? First, you have to believe it yourself! Second, you have to live it. Third, sharing it just might mean you tell others about it right? (Jn.4:28-29; Acts 8:33). The gospel should never be the best kept secret in town!

Of course we all know what it means to share our possessions don’t we? The Miami Valley was hit with three tornados three days ago. It has left a lot of devastation and heart ache. Brethren, does such an event afford us individually and collectively an opportunity to share our possessions? Absolutely it does. “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal.6:10).

I received a text from David Edmonds early Tuesday morning (tell who David is and where he preaches), he was inquiring if our congregation was okay and I told him to the best of my ability, I believe we are okay. But they were offering to assist us if we needed it. They have their own disaster relief team that is overseen by their elders and they stand ready to serve in times of crisis. I think that’s a good thing church. We should always be ready to serve others in their time of pain and suffering.

This is the model the Lord gave us and this is the model the first century church gave us. As worshippers attended the Pent Feast, many would remain in Jerusalem and continue hearing the message of the apostles. They needed help, financial help, and

the church would step in and share their possessions.

Of course we can't discussing sharing and caring unless we talk about what we are really good at; EATING! (Talk about the Love Feast). Let's read some passages that pertain to it (2Pt.2:1-3; 12-13; Jude 3-4, 12-13).

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## Manner of Life

- Although absolute truth and the chords of love provided a solid foundation for Christians; false teaching was just around the corner.
- Jesus warned against it (Jn.10:1-5; Mt.24:9-12).
- The Apostles issued warnings (Acts 20:27-31; 2Pt.2:1-3; 1Tim.4:1-5).
- The second century and beyond manifest the departure from truth.

(Read all bullets).

How do you safe guard yourselves against false teaching?

1. Don't listen to voices of strangers (Jn.10:1-5).
2. Test the spirits (1Jn.4:1-6).
3. Behave like a Berean (Acts 17:11).
4. Continue in the truth (2Tim.3:13-17).