

## Highlights

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*The Kerugma Message***

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# The Kerugma

## MESSAGE II

### LOOK AT IT THIS WAY

## Possessing the Kingdom – Part 2

By Zane C. Hodges

(originally printed in *The Kerugma Message* – April-June 1991)

Many New Testament texts are misunderstood because they refer to the truth that faithful believers will co-reign with Christ in His Kingdom. Among other places, this truth is clearly stated in such passages as 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:26, 27 and 3:21. It is elaborately dealt with in the famous parable about the minas (or pounds) in Luke 19:11-27. In the last issue of *The Kerugma Message*, we considered Matthew 5:3. The series continues in this issue with Matthew 5:5.

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. — Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)

Even a casual reading of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12 shows us that they are dealing with the subject of rewards. In opening His Sermon on the Mount with them, the Lord Jesus Christ pronounces specific blessings on His disciples (see 5:1) based on their character or experiences. The final verse (5:12) specifically uses the word *reward*.

There is nothing in the Beatitudes about the free gift of eternal life. As

we suggested last issue, the Sermon should be viewed as a “lecture” by a great Teacher (Jesus) to His pupils (the disciples). The larger audience (the crowd) is allowed to listen in on this.

The initial Beatitude (5:3), as we saw, holds forth the Kingdom of Heaven itself as a reward for disciples who have developed humility and submission of heart before God. Such people are “poor in spirit” because they have renounced the qualities so treasured by the world, such as pride, self-confidence, and self-glory.

But such people may also be described as *meeke*. The Greek word for *meeke* (*praus*) suggests not only humility, but also characteristics like gentle, considerate, and unassuming.

We may say that being poor in spirit is primarily an inward quality, while meekness is especially an outward one. Meekness is the natural outward expression toward others of that inward lowliness which the poor in spirit possess. Thus, God is looking for disciples who are both inwardly and outwardly Christlike.

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## Significance of *The Kerugma Message*

Zane C. Hodges left his teaching position at Dallas Theological Seminary in 1986. Two years later, Kerugma, Inc. was established as the sole supporting agency for Zane’s writing ministry. *The Kerugma Message* was launched in 1991 to acquaint people with the ministry of Kerugma, Inc. and Zane’s writing. Publication stopped with Zane’s going home to be with the Lord in 2008.

With the formal establishment of Zane Hodges Library, Inc. in 2025, a decision was made to relaunch *The Kerugma Message*, hence this re-inaugural newsletter and its updated title, *The Kerugma Message II*.

This newsletter will acquaint the reader with the ministries of Zane Hodges Library and provide helpful discussions of God’s Word by Zane and other like-minded Focused Free Grace Bible teachers.

Possessing the Kingdom – Part 2

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Those who are will own the Kingdom of Heaven (5:3). They will also “inherit the earth” (5.5). The key word here is *inherit*. In the Old Testament this term was frequently used of ownership, especially ownership of land or property (see, among many other texts, Gen. 15:7, 8; 28:4; Lev. 25:46; Num. 18: 24; 26:55; 32:32; Deut. 2:31; 25:19; Josh. 13:14; 17:14). The Levites, for example, are said to have had no inheritance (that is, land) in Israel (e.g., Num. 26:62), yet they lived in the land.

Individuals, too, could be awarded land as an inheritance. Thus, Caleb was given Hebron as a reward for his loyalty to God. In Joshua 14, Caleb claims that inheritance:

“I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’”

And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an *inheritance*. Hebron therefore became the *inheritance* of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. — Joshua 14: 7-9, 13-14 (italics added)

This passage effectively illustrates the principle behind Matthew 5:5. To “inherit the earth” is to possess it as an

award from God Himself. Against the Old Testament background, it means quite a bit more than simply to inhabit the earth. Rather, the term *inherit* suggests ownership.

As Revelation 21:1-5 makes plain, the Kingdom of Heaven will be centered on this earth, so that the King Himself owns or possesses the earth. Yet those who share His kingly authority — those who co-reign with Him — will also possess the earth. In fact, we may correctly say that the King Himself inherits His Kingdom *and* the earth. This is made quite plain in Psalm 2, where the Son reports God’s words to Him:

“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You *The nations* for Your *inheritance*, And the *ends of the earth* for your *possession*.”

You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

— Psalm 2: 7-9 (italics added)

What is the destiny of disciples who are truly meek? It is nothing less than to share the marvelous inheritance of God’s kingly Son! It is to possess the Kingdom — to possess the earth itself — as those who co-reign with Him. For, “if we endure, we shall also reign with Him” (2 Tim. 2: 12).

Who can estimate the immense joy of such a privilege? In fact, it will be a joy that the King shares with His kingly companions, as the writer of Hebrews (quoting Psalm 45) so well expresses it:

But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness:

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your *companions.*”

— Hebrews 1: 8, 9 (italics added)

The *companions* (Greek=“partners”) of the King are the co-heirs. His joy exceeds theirs, just as His perfect and unswerving loyalty to God exceeded theirs. But who can doubt that the joy He shares with them — specifically here the joy of kingship — is very great indeed?

Christ will someday rejoice over the possession of an eternal throne bestowed on Him by His Father. The truly meek will enter into “the joy of their Lord” and will possess the earth in fellowship with Him.

May the Lord work this fruit of the Spirit in each of us, for the *gentleness* of Galatians 5: 23 is the *meekness* of this Beatitude!

**Word from the Zane Hodges Library**

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the ministry of Zane Hodges Library. All donated funds are used to cover operational expenses and projects that proclaim the message: “Eternal life is an absolutely free gift that can never be lost, once received by believing in Jesus for His promise of eternal life.”

We view all contributions as investments in things eternal, and ourselves as stewards to see that through these investments, much eternal reward accrues to the donors.

No funds are currently used to pay salary or wages to the administrators, who are unpaid volunteers.

Donations may be made by credit card or online bank transfer through the website at:

**www.ZaneHodges.org**

Checks can be mailed to:

**Zane Hodges Library, Inc.  
6601 Hillcrest Ave., Ste. E  
Dallas, TX 75205**

Gifts to Zane Hodges Library, Inc. are U.S. tax deductible

# Assurance by Testimony or Assurance by Truth

By Mike Lii

## Introduction

Have you ever encountered someone who doubts their salvation because they cannot remember when they first came to faith in Jesus for everlasting life? Or have you encountered someone who wonders whether a prior profession of faith was genuine? Are you wondering about the validity of your own salvation because you cannot recall the date or time when you first understood and believed the saving message?

In these situations, is trying to remember our past helpful to having assurance of our salvation in the present? When we want assurance of salvation, where should we look? The Bible does not teach us to look at our past works for proof of our salvation, but does the Bible teach us to recall our past experiences in order to know that we are saved today?

## Humans Are Finite

While it may be a nice memory or beneficial to reminisce about when we first came to faith, proper assurance of our salvation in the present should always come from what is currently believed, instead of trying to recall what we once believed. Humans are finite beings. We live in the present. None of us has the ability to time travel or alter the past. Nothing we do today can change what has already occurred.

In addition, with our current bodies and minds, none of our memories are perfect. None of us remembers perfectly what we have believed throughout every moment of our existence. I've had the embarrassing experience of learning someone's name when meeting them for the first time but failing to remember

their name when I later met them again. We fail to remember what we once believed, and we can also forget times in the past when we doubted.

Although we do not have the ability to change the past, we do have the ability to change the present and the future. If you are struggling with assurance today, don't focus on trying to remember what you may have believed in the past. Instead, look to Jesus' promises on how to be sure today that you have everlasting life that can never be lost:

“For God loved the world in this way: that He gave His unique Son, so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16 (FMT)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” – John 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” – John 6:47

“I am the Resurrection and the Life...He who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never ever die, even to eternity.” – John 11:25-26

Notice that in none of these passages does Jesus say, “Try to remember what you believed in the past.” Jesus is saying, “If you want to know for sure that you have everlasting life here and now, believe in Me right now for the free gift of everlasting life.”

## Conclusion

The answer for assurance today, regardless of whether one has believed in the past, is to believe in Jesus right now. And when you believe in Jesus for everlasting life today, your future destiny is certain. Believers have eternal life and an eternal destiny with Jesus that can never be lost, even if they later stop believing and later forget that they ever believed in Jesus.

So don't look for assurance by examining your past testimony. Instead, look to the truth found in Jesus' promises in God's Word **today**. **At this very moment**, do you believe Jesus guarantees everlasting life to all believers in Him?

## Projects of the Zane Hodges Library

- *Absolutely Free!* and *Six Secrets of the Christian Life* have been translated into Spanish and Russian.
- If you know of other Focused Free Grace translators who would be interested in translating Zane's works, please email [ZaneCHodges@gmail.com](mailto:ZaneCHodges@gmail.com).
- Videos with dynamic captioning are now available for *Assurance is of the Essence of Saving Faith*, *The Spirit of the Antichrist*, *Water Producing Water (John 4)*, and *Decision Making and Guidance from God* on Zane Hodges Library's YouTube channel.
- English books: *How to Be the Spouse and Parent God Wants You to Be* and *Dead Faith, Saving Faith, God's Will and More*
- Increased social media presence
- Improving the website [www.ZaneHodges.org](http://www.ZaneHodges.org)
- Assisting in the production of the Faithful Majority Translation of the Gospel of John
- *The Best News Ever* and *You Can Be Eternally Secure* tracts

**Zane Hodges Library**  
**[www.ZaneHodges.org](http://www.ZaneHodges.org)**

## Friends of the Zane Hodges Library

By Letitia Lii

The board of the Zane Hodges Library (ZHL) had its first inaugural board meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Board members are Bob Bryant, Sherry Bryant, Paul Carpenter, Dan Hauge, Mike Lii, and me. Although the meeting went slightly over the one-hour mark, it was encouraging to realize that all board members share the same vision: to make Zane’s materials as widely available as possible. Future projects include publishing Zane’s class notes on various New Testament books drawn from his years of teaching at Dallas Theological Seminary. We are hoping to hire a social media coordinator to extend ZHL’s reach into multiple media outlets. Mike and I thank our board members for providing wise counsel and for volunteering their time to walk alongside this library because of their love for the Saving Message of Jesus and their desire to share Zane’s materials with as many people as possible.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Mike and I met with Robert Calhoun over dinner in Dallas. Robert was Zane’s personal assistant at Kerugma Ministries as well as his close friend for many years. I still remember Robert typing away at the Kerugma offices as Kerugma was trying to release a new edition of *The Gospel Under Siege*. Robert not only assisted Zane at the office but ran many errands outside the office, such as driving Zane to various conferences or teaching commitments.

Mike and I had a great time catching up and fellowshiping with Robert after a fifteen-year hiatus. It’s a blessing to hear his understanding of Scripture and his desire for Zane’s

materials to be distributed as much as possible. A shout-out to Robert’s daughter, Tameka, for facilitating our communication that led to our dinner together.

The Zane Hodges Library will have a book table at the Grace Evangelical Society’s (GES) conference on May 18-21, held at Camp Copass, Denton, Texas. Please stop by and say hello to us if you are coming to the conference. In addition to our foreign translations of *Absolutely Free!*, *Grace in Eclipse* and *Six Secrets of the Christian Life*, we (ZHL) are happy to offer two new English books transcribed from messages by Zane.

### ***Dead Faith, Saving Faith, God’s Will and More***

This is a compilation of Zane’s out-of-print *Dead Faith: What is It?*; Zane’s message on James 2 given at the 2005 GES conference; Zane’s two sermons that covered saving faith, lordship salvation, discipleship, and repentance given at Jansen Bible Church in 1990 when Paul Carpenter was serving as pastor; Zane’s chapel message on the will of God given at DTS in the early 1970s, which Bob Bryant heard in person; and Zane’s *What is Living Water?: Water Producing Water* given at the 2007 GES conference.



### ***How to Be the Spouse and Parent God Wants You to Be***

This book contains eight messages on marriage that Zane gave at Victor Street Bible Chapel, six of which were originally released in 2021 as *How to Be the Spouse God Wants You to Be: Male and Female Created He Them*. Ten additional sermons on parenting were added for this new book.

Both these new books, as well as Spanish translations of *Absolutely Free!*, *Grace in Eclipse* and *Six Secrets of the Christian Life* are available for purchase at Amazon in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle formats. Free pdf copies in US letter size and A4 paper size are available for free download from our website:

[zanehodges.com/books/](http://zanehodges.com/books/)

Our goal is to maximize distribution of Zane’s materials, not to maximize revenue. Pricing on Amazon is generally set at our cost, rounded up to the nearest half dollar. Feel free to reach out to us if you are interested in wholesale quantities of 10 or more.

We would also like to take this time to thank Debbie Payne and Frances Mosher, who have contributed their graphic design and editorial skills, respectively, to producing these books, because of their love for the Saving Message of Jesus and the high value they place on Zane’s teachings.

**“If you knew the gift of God,” Jesus said to her in response, “and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me something to drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”**

**John 4:10**

Faithful Majority Translation