

Jan 2/22 – Small Group Questions - Read Psalm 72

The psalm is King David's prayer for his son and successor, Solomon. The psalm eventually became a prayer over the Israelite kings during their coronation. In the psalm, David prays for six things for the king of Israel: endowed righteousness, endless rule, expansive rule, social justice, and prosperity. While David, Solomon, and the rest of the Israelite kings failed to live up to these prayers, Jesus Christ came to perfectly fulfill the psalm. So now, those who are found in Jesus through baptism participate in His kingship. Baptized Christians are people who now exhibit Jesus' kingship on earth.

1. How are Christians endowed with justice and righteousness?

Divine justice and righteousness is now imputed to Christians via Jesus. Just as our sins were imputed (i.e. assigned) to Jesus, so His righteousness is imputed to us by faith. And having Christ's righteousness, we also have His justice. And so, Christians are to live out divine justice in their forgiven and restored life. While this is a theoretical notion, it has practical implications in how we live ethically as Christians.

2. How do Christians now participate in the endless and expansive rule of Jesus?

The new creation has entered into our world through Jesus, and it continues to expand in and through the Church by the Holy Spirit. Christians then are signposts and channels that point and promote new creation (i.e. the new order and reign of Jesus over and above the sinful and old rule of the world). Practically, this means Christians display in their works, character, priorities, and attitudes the new creation.

3. How can Christians embody gospel-centred social justice?

Christians participate in social justice causes not for its own sake and not according to secular terms, but because social justice serves to bring about God's justice and righteousness in the world and for the sake of the worship of Jesus Christ. This means we can faithfully continue as Christians to rally, petition, vote, lobby, and protest, as we pray, repent, prophetically call out, and bear witness to the Gospel.

4. How can Christians contribute to the true prosperity of society?

Money and wealth are good things. And all good things require stewardship and faithful handling. Christians can contribute by faithful stewardship and generosity to human enterprise and economy.