**“Flickering Lamps – Christ & His Church” (Blackaby)**

**Week 4: ‘Christ’s Power and His Church’ (Pt. 2)**

**October 21, 2020**

1. **God’s Power on Display**

**“**We will not hide them from their descendants;
    we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
    his power, and the wonders he has done.” **Psalm 78:4**

“To misrepresent Christ is an affront to almighty God. Yet churches do it all the time. They are Christ’s body to their community, yet they grow discouraged and display an anemic faith. People see a weak church and assume it serves a weak God.” (71)

“If churches would open their spiritual eyes to see the immensity of Gods’ power that is fully available to them, we would experience revival in our day.”

**Six observations about how almighty God chooses to work among His people:**

1. **Christ Draws People to Himself**

**Matthew 18:11** “For the Son of Man has come to save the lost”

**Romans 3:10-11** “There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God”

**John 12:32** “As for Me, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people, to Myself.”

1. **Christ Transforms People**

**1 Cor. 15:10** “But by God’s grace I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not ineffective.”

1. **Christ Rules the Nations**

“Many churches today are growing discouraged by their government and the laws that are being legislated. When secular government leaders pass laws that violate biblical standards, some congregations worry and fret.”

1. **God Rules the Economy**

“At times churches fixate on what the world is doing rather than on what God is accomplishing…Our church learned that, regardless of how dismal our situation might appear, there was no circumstance so difficult that God could not orchestrate it for our good.”

1. **Christ Brings in the Harvest**

**Matt. 9:37-38** “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

1. **God Protects His People**

“Though we faced break-ins and winter storms, the most painful experiences came from other Christians…It amazed me that our church received more ridicule for coming back to life than we did when were dying!”

“That was a critical time in my life as a minister and for our church…Should we confront our critics? We believed doctrinally that our God was all-powerful. But in the practical circumstances of the moment we needed to act like God was omnipotent.”

**1 Samuel 2:30** “…I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disgraced.”

**Daniel 3:17-18** “If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king. But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.”

**Conclusion:** “Never forget regardless of how small or weak your church may be, in the hands of almighty God, anything is possible! Anything.”