

WELCOME to a 31 week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College

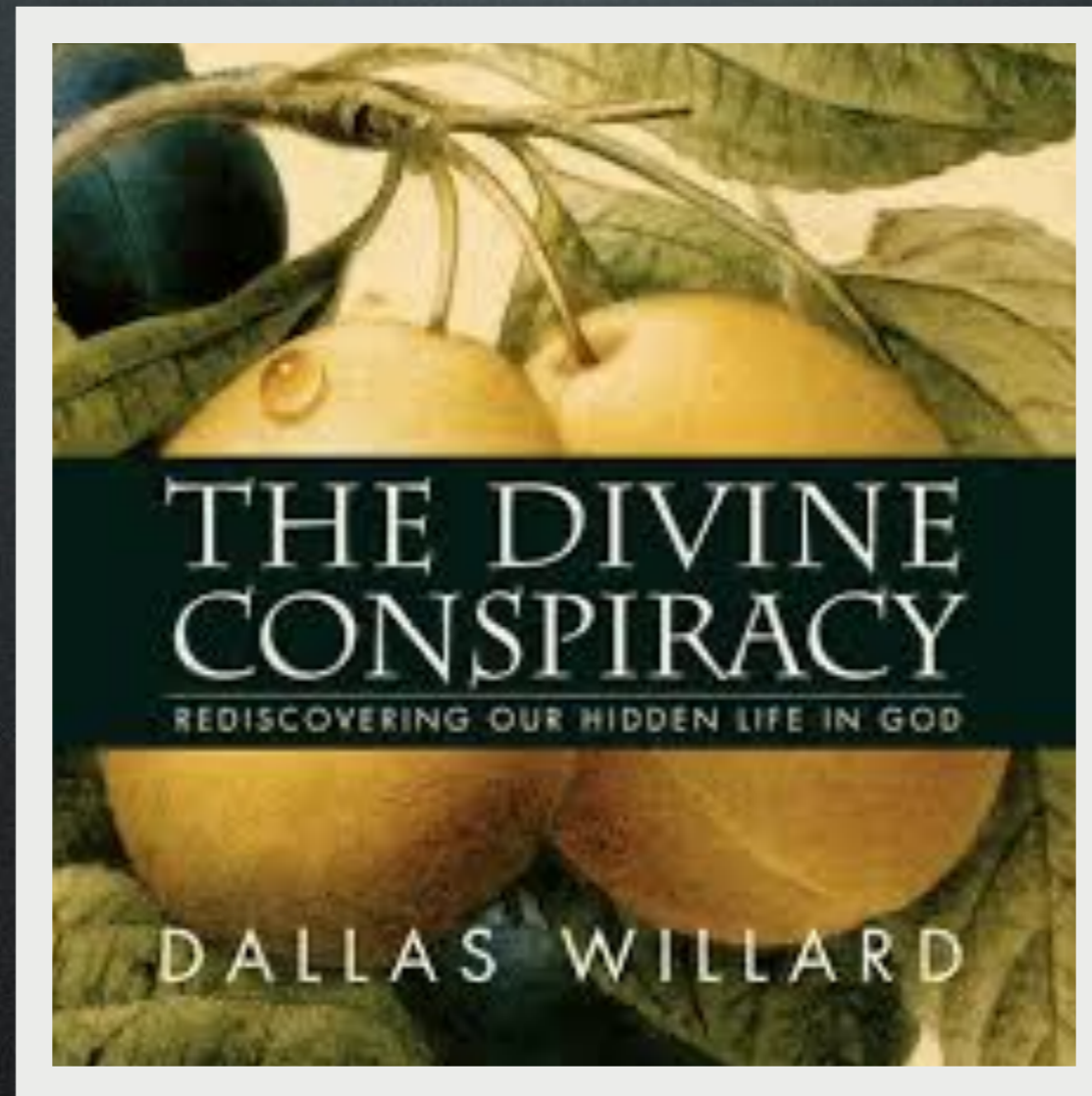


THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 3 - What Jesus Knew:

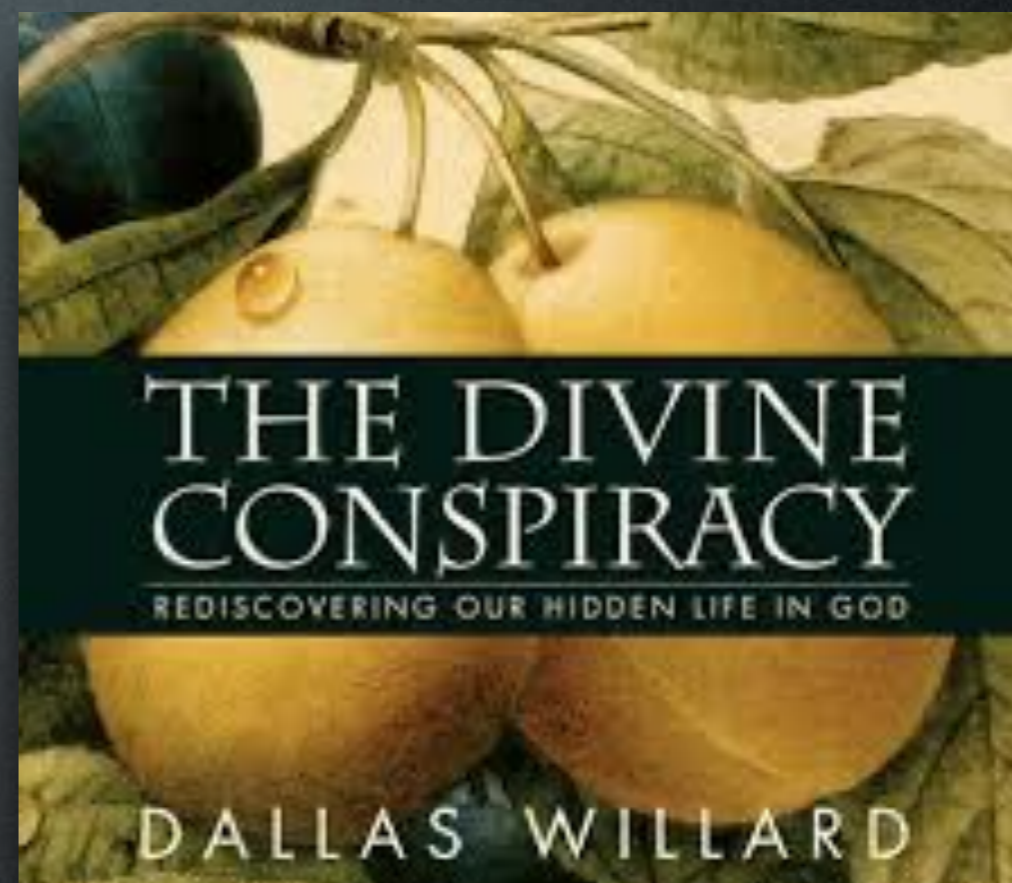
Our God Bathed World

Session 8 - *“All Things Visible & Invisible”*



Session 7 Review

God is present in space and time, and the very air we breathe. We were created to inhabit the heavens right where we are.



If we are to make sense of Jesus' teaching and practice of the Kingdom of the Heavens, we must understand what spirit and the spiritual are and how they are in space. (Session 7, p. 74)

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Chapter 3 - What Jesus Knew:

Our God Bathed World

Session 8 - *“All Things Visible & Invisible”*

What is Spiritual Reality? — *6th Sense*

The Problem — How God is present around us in space and what ‘Kingdom of the Heavens’ is.

Spiritual is not something we ought to be,
it is something we are...

Non Physical ~ Ultimate Power ~ Thought ~ Valuing

(79-80)

The Centrality of “My” Will

The will (or heart) is the Executive Center of the self.

Self-Determination ~ Freedom ~ Creativity

“Our effort...consents or non-consents...the original contribution we make to the world.” William James

(80-81)



The Nature of God *

“I AM that I AM” Exodus 3:14

“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.” John 5:26

~ ~ ~

Nothing other than God has this character of totally self-sufficient being, or self-determination.

(81)

* — [The Divine Conspiracy #3 - 9:00-15:30](#)

The Nature of You & Me

Every human being has a will or will power. It is our inclination and capacity to act on our own and to produce what we find to be good - to be freely creative. Without will we would have not life that is recognizably human.

“The category of ‘spirit’ (will, choice) is a scandal to the modern world.” Dallas, “The DC Lecture” #3, 15:07

We are describing the “kingdom” that belongs to every human being by nature. Grace, through confidence in Jesus, permits our kingdom to grow into a union with the Kingdom of God.



(81)

The Centrality of Our Will or Heart

The heart, or will, simply is spirit in human beings, and the one thing in us that God will accept as the basis of our relationship to Him.

The heart/will/spirit is the spiritual plane of our natural existence, the place of truth before God, from where alone our whole lives can become eternal.

(81)



The Substantiality of Spirituality

Spirit is un-bodily personal power. (81)

To understand spirit as “substance” is of the utmost importance in our current world, which is so devoted to the priority of matter.

Spirit - thoughts, feelings, willings and their developments - exercises a power outside the physical.

Romans 8:6, “The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”

This is how Jesus sees our world - it is part of His gospel.



(82)

So, what does that mean to me today?

Through my **will** [capacity to arrange my kingdom/queendom - what makes me human], I act by and with **grace** to place my confidence in **Jesus**, and I grow into a union of my **spirit** [will] with the Kingdom of God [God is love and love is grace in action.]

Since I am a **spiritual being** [the real “I” that makes up “me”], I was made to live in the **Spirit** - in an interactive dependence upon **God** under His **Kingdom** rule [His loving grace in action in and through me.]

That means **Kingdom living** is an **eternal** kind of life now where God — “I AM that I AM” — exists eternally.

The Problem – The Human Quandary

HOPELESS...FRANTIC...DESPAIRING...

“Doors in the Wall” H.G. Wells

“Chemical vacations from intolerable selfhood and repulsive surroundings.”

Aldous Huxley

Leo Tolstoy, *A Confession*...Feeling completely hopeless until he finally came to faith in a world of God where all that is good is preserved.



(82-83)

The Problem



Growing up in the wrong kingdom leaves us confused!
(phylum...class...order...family...genus...species)

A Solution in the “Mind of the Spirit”

The world of the spiritual Jesus opened to humanity long ago and still opens to those who seek it...the way to the spiritual world.

“The mind of the spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

As Tolstoy discovered in the faith of simple peasants...a world adequate to our nature as ceaselessly creative beings under God!

The “mind of the flesh” is a living death. The heavens are closed...like a inverted bowl in the sky. There, Tolstoy saw with disgust, we constantly must violate our conscience in order to survive. [Huxley’s, “Chemical & Sensual Vacations”.] (83)





The Solution in the Kingdom Among Us

Jesus, by contrast, brings us into a world without fear. In His world, there is nothing evil we must do in order to thrive. He lived, and invites us to live, in an undying world where it is safe* to do and be good.

He was understood by his first friends to have...

“...abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2 Timothy 1:10

Our posture of confident reliance upon Him in all we do allows us to make our life undying, of eternal worth, integrated into the eternal vistas and movement of the Spirit. (84)

* - “safe” - p. 12, 30, 66, 84, 90

Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than
all we can ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20



Untethered

(def.) “to be free from”

verb un·teth·er \ ən-'te-thər \



God is not the God of the dead but of the living.

Luke 20:38

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Chapter 3 - What Jesus Knew:

Our God Bathed World

“Death Dismissed”

Death Dismissed Makes us Careless about Death

The startling disregard Jesus and the New Testament writers had for “physical death” begins to make sense.

Those who love and are loved by God are not allowed to cease to exist, because they are God’s treasures. He delights in them and plans to hold on to them. He has even prepared for them an individualized eternal work in His vast universe.

(84)





“Anyone who keeps my word...
everyone living and believing in
me, shall never never die.”

John 8:52; 11:26

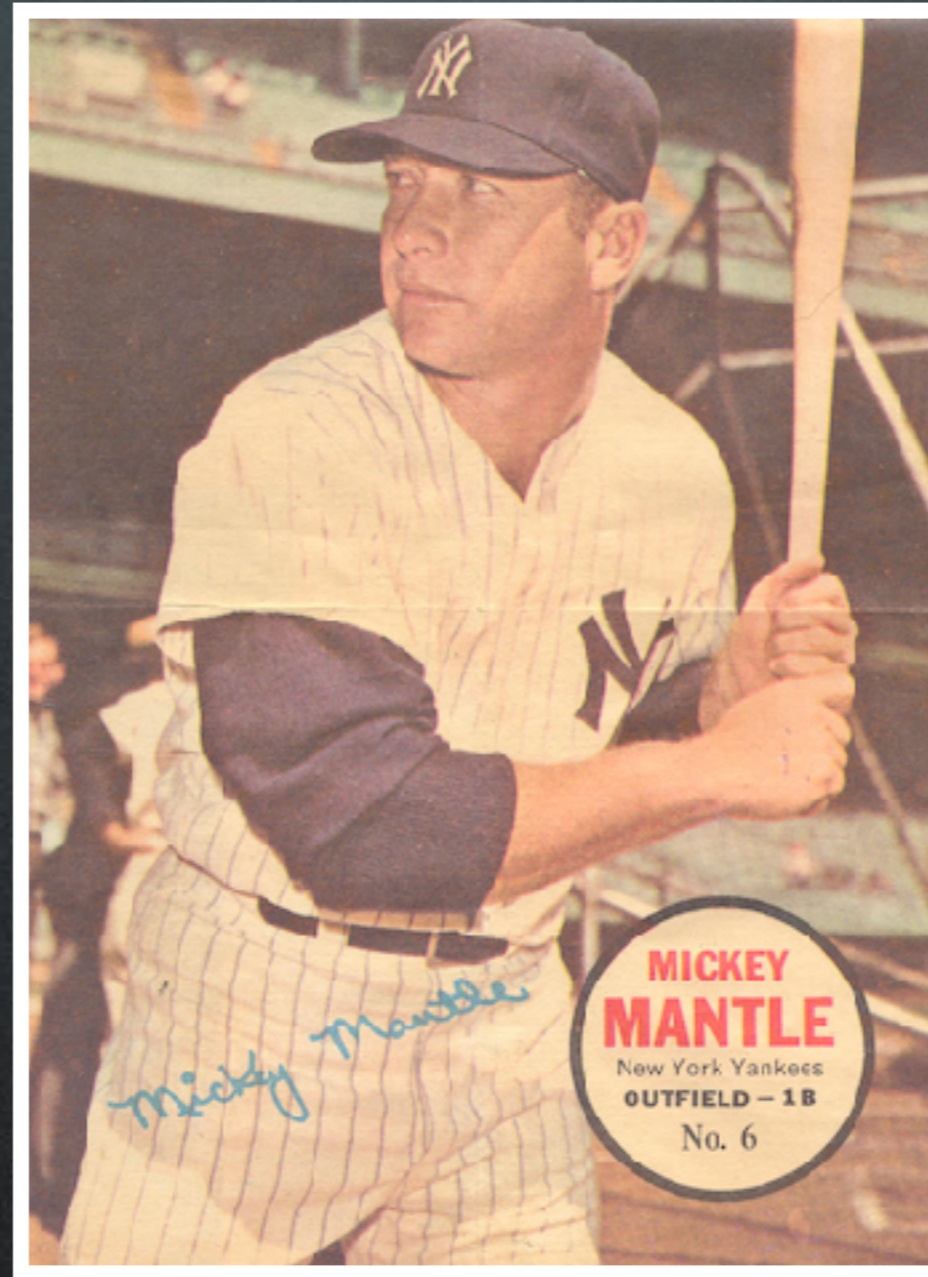
Jesus Dismissed Death

“When we’ve been there 10,000 years
bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we first begun.”

*We are never-ceasing spiritual beings with
an eternal destiny in the full world of God.*

How should we take care of ourselves when we are never to cease? Jesus shows his apprentices how to live in the light of the fact that they will never stop living.

*“Had I only known how long I was going to live,
I would have taken better care of myself.”*



Mickey Mantle when dying of diseases
brought on by a life of heavy drinking. (86)

The Saints Go Marching In

“One day soon you will hear that I am dead. Do not believe it. I will then be alive as never before.”

D.L. Moody

~ ~ ~

“This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

~ ~ ~

“It’s really important to understand how joy cuts through everything. And to anticipate that your moment of passage from this earth will be one of great joy.”

Dallas Willard, February, 2013...3 months before his death

The Dual Context of Life in God's World

“The widow put more in the offering than all others.”

Jesus lived and taught in full view of the Heavens opened. This causes multitudes to dismiss His teachings as “unrealistic”.

They do not see His world.

The context of the Kingdom Among Us transforms the respective actions.

“Little is much when God is in it.”





Which Side Really Is Up?

First is Last and Last is First = The Great Inversion

All models of human hopelessness are fruitful and secure in God's view. (89)

As it is in the Heavens...*The Kingdom Among Us*

To become a disciple of Jesus is to accept now that inversion that will sooner or later be forced upon everyone by the irresistible reality of His Kingdom.



The Resistance Built into Our Daily Life

Human life certainly resists the great inversion.

The idea of an all-encompassing, all-penetrating world of God, interactive at every point with our lives, where we always be totally at home and safe* regardless of what happens in the visible dimension of the universe... is routinely treated as ridiculous.

There is no field of expertise in human affairs where interaction with God is part of the subject matter or practice that must be mastered in order to be judged competent. Not chemistry...public administration... education...nursing...police...Christian ministry... marriage...parenting. (90)

* - “safe” - p. 12, 30, 66, 84, 90

We live by our competencies.

Our souls are soaked with secularity.

In any context in which people are supposed to be smart and informed, even the most thoughtful and devout Christian will find it hard to make a convincing presentation of the relevance of God and His spiritual world to “real life”.

(91)



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A

WAIT! I can live this today?

Through repenting [thinking about what I think about after being with **Jesus**], I put my mind on the **Spirit** and willfully choose to prioritize God's Kingdom come, God's will be done in my life as in the Heavens [surrounding space where God reigns - not *a long time ahead in a land far, far away.*]

The Spirit of Jesus empowers me to...

- ~ Live without fear.
- ~ Seek to do the good.
- ~ Speak truth.
- ~ Live worry-free about my physical needs.
- ~ Show love, know joy, have peace in all situations.
- ~ See and live in the world Jesus knew - a God bathed world
- ~ Not be afraid to die.

Meditation — *Romans 8:1-6*

Application

Q - Do I resist or embrace life in the great inversion where I can live in Heaven on Earth daily?

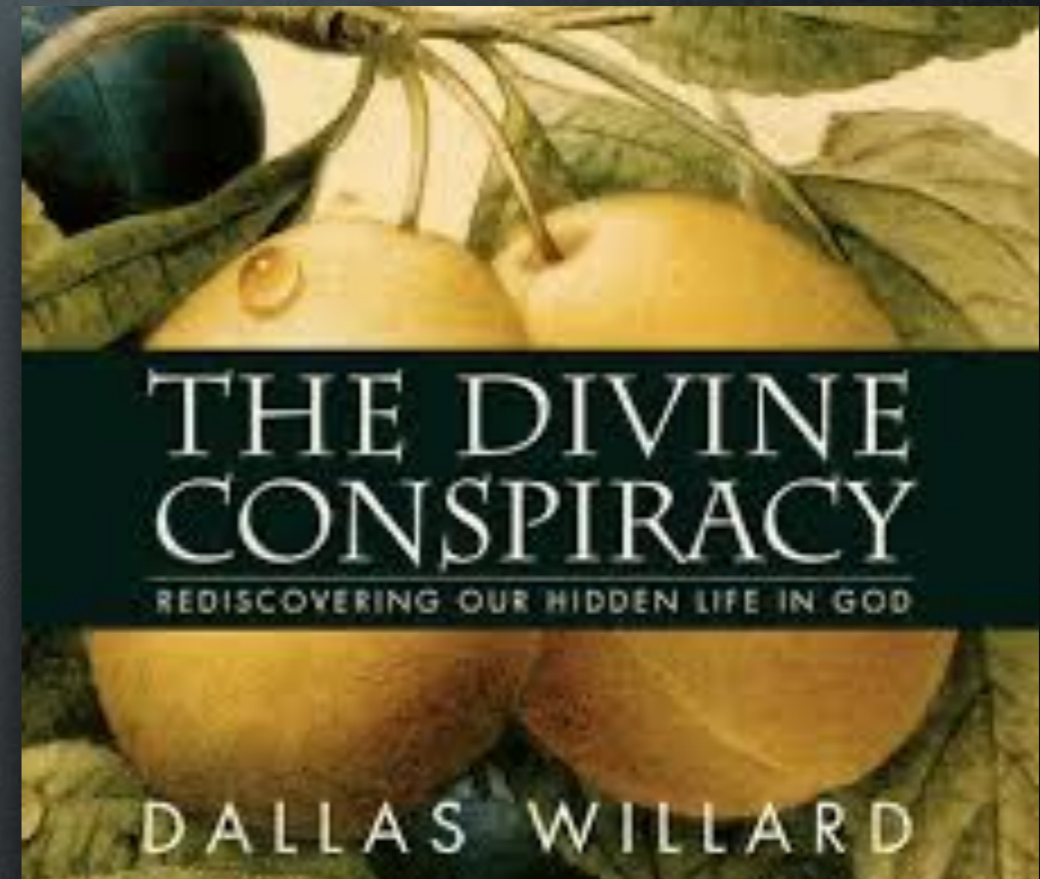
Q - How do I “live by my competencies?” (91)

Q - How is my “soul soaked with secularity”? (91)
What spiritual practice in the next 10,000 minutes will soak my soul in the Spirit?



Session 8 Summary

The grand inversion occurs when we learn by God's grace as disciples of Jesus to live in the presence of the Kingdom among us, undying, without ceasing, now and forever.



80:00 + 10K



“The Divine Conspiracy Lectures”

Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel



The Harvey Fellows 2004 Summer Institute
12-part video series

Course Session 8* — DC #3 - 9:00-15:30 & 52:40-57:40

(119) pages of lecture notes in the Jesus College Library

<https://www.jesuscollege.com/dallaswillard-thedivineconspiracy>

* See the Reading Schedule for related teachings

Next Week — Session 9

Ch. 3 - What Jesus Knew: Our God Bathed World

“Jesus as Master Intellect”

Hardback - pp. 91-95

Paperback - pp. 90-104

For Recorded Sessions + Slides, go to:

[JesusCollege - The Divine Conspiracy](#)

May your next 10,000
minutes be mindful of
your next 10,000
years,

Doug



THE SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

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The next slide was shared during session 1
extended conversation but not part of the course
30-minute presentation.

“Drama — the ups & downs of meaningful existence in the pursuit of good against opposition.

Drama is a word that we need to learn to use. We should be living a dramatic life. It helps us really come to grips with how our life is going. Is there drama in our lives? Some of us may feel like we could stand a little less drama because the opposition may be pressing us very hard.

Living in the eternal Kingdom of God now is what gives us this framework.”



Dallas Willard

[“The Divine Conspiracy”, Lecture #3 @ 59:40](#)