

Closing the Gap:

Where am I? Where do I want to be?



He who answers before listening — that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 18:13

"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Matthew 6:9-13



The kingdom of God is where what God wants done is done.



It is, in essence, how to live more and more on earth as you will someday in heaven.



The promises of God are not all future...but they are also not guarantees of a life free from trouble...but of a life full of him.



Pray...for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:2



These are certainly <u>neither</u> the "best of times or the worst of times" in American history.



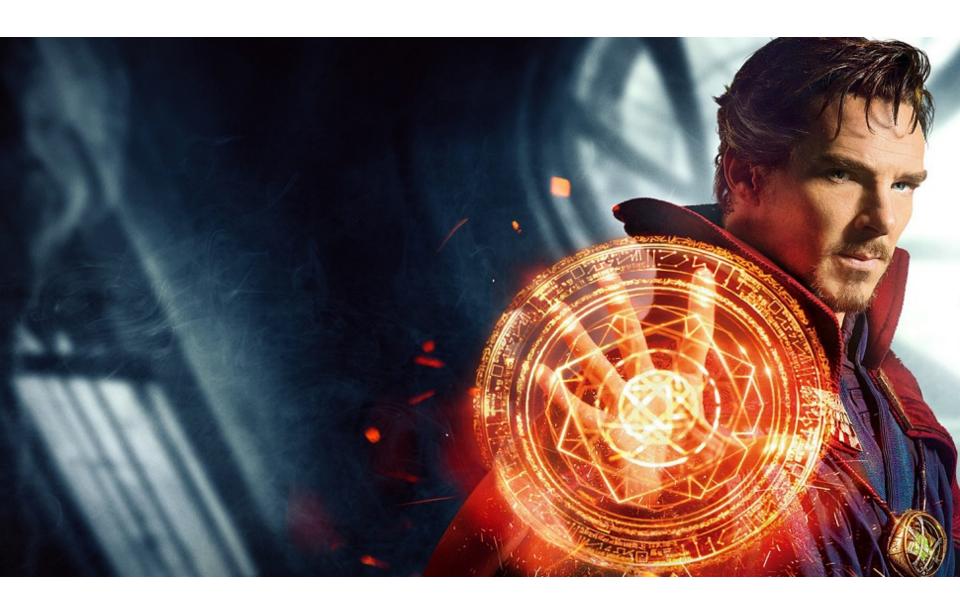
A prayer of closing the gap



When the King of the universe came as a man to demonstrate what life in the Kingdom is like...he served, washed feet, then ultimately he died.



We must become people who more and more are making life less and less about us...not just in words but in deeds.





It is so simple, so non-complex...that we can walk right past it.



Love God, love people...this is his kingdom come, this is his will done.



1. Knowing his will...what does his "Kingdom come look like?"



The will of God regarding how to live life in his Kingdom has been revealed in the words of the Bible and through the Word made flesh, Jesus.



Love the people God has given you to love.



2. A heart to obey...learning to want and to do what he wants.

Jesus confessed that **all** things are possible for his Father (Mark 14:36) and he also asked that **if** possible this "cup" be taken from him (Matt. 26:39).

There is no contradiction in these passages.



Jesus did not want to bear the cup of God's wrath *and* Jesus wanted to bear the cup of God's wrath.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 12:3-4