

## ***84 Let's start a revolution!***

On and off over the many years, I've felt the huge contrast between the early church and how it spread and (what I see of) the church today.

In the past few days, I've felt it not so much a huge contrast, but a total disconnect. Here's what has struck me...

Historical fact: In the name of Christianity, some terrible evil has been perpetrated, e.g. the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition.

Historical fact: Christians have been (and still are being) a massive force for good, e.g. the abolition of slavery, the fall of Apartheid + the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mother Theresa, the fight against human trafficking.

Historical fact: After the resurrection, a movement started that 'turned the world upside down'. It caused such a storm that many Christians were killed for their faith.

Idea: Based on my first 82 articles, let's start a revolution! Let's tell people that by believing in Jesus' death for them on the cross, they can enter a wonderful personal relationship with God.

Do you see what I mean about a disconnect?

Looking back over my articles, I can see a trajectory: having been drawn back into a wonderful relationship with God, the theme of the kingdom has kept nagging at me.

This came to a head in [75] 'What is the kingdom of God like?': Jesus came as the expected Messiah and started a movement, which turned the world upside down in a matter of years, but then we turned it back into a religion. Why?

So if Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, what does that mean? What did he and the early church mean by the kingdom? How could we, how dare we, turn it into the gospel of personal salvation and how I get to heaven?!

Once again, no answers, just exasperated questions. How do we escape religion and get back to a movement? How do we grow the kingdom?

'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth...'

Paul Bev. 28.10.19