

To each of you, my personal gratitude . . .

*How blessed we have been to study the Gospel of Matthew this year and focus our attention on the Kingdom of Heaven as we have faced many challenges and uncertainties brought by the pandemic and the election which will bring significant changes in government leadership. And there are other matters which demand our attention including personal health and financial concerns, family needs, disruption in our work and worship activities, restrictions on our interaction with those whom we love, and even shortages and rationing of supplies we have enjoyed in abundance in the past. So, we must be sure we have the right perspective and priorities, not focusing on temporary things but making sure we have eternal things rightly in order.*

*We have had twenty-three lessons from Matthew, beginning on January 14 with a five-month interruption, and ending our study today, November 17, 2020. We know that these chapters and verses are about who we are as the people of God, the Church, how we understand our citizenship in this Kingdom and the blessings and responsibilities that come with it. Our Kingdom has a King: Jesus. Our Kingdom has laws which are fulfilled by loving God and loving others. Our Kingdom has stewardship accountability and eternal rewards.*

*As we have studied together, I have been encouraged and inspired by your faithfulness and eagerness to learn from God's word, and we have been blessed as the Holy Spirit has revealed meaningful lessons in how we are to live pleasing God. Thank you.*

*A blessing from Jude 24-25:*

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
and to make you stand in the presence of His glory  
blameless and with great joy,  
to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,  
before all time and now and forever.*

*Amen*

*With love in Christ,*

