

Pastor Ray's Bible School #10

“Lordship and the Kingdom of God”

“After this manner pray...
Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ”

“...But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things will be added unto you. ”

Matthew 6: 9,10,33

I. The Prophetic View of the Kingdom of God

A. Endeavoring to “See” from God’s Point of View

1. We understand details best from greater perspective.
 - a. Assembling a children’s gym set
 - b. Putting a puzzle together
 - c. Finding our way to our destination around a roadblock
2. Key questions to finding God’s perspective
 - a. Is there any “central point” of scripture?
 - b. Is there any “anchor” around which I can understand new truth?
 - c. What is the most important subject of scripture?

B. The Most Important Subject in Scripture is the *Kingdom of God*!

1. There are many very important subjects contained in the Bible. Most churches, denominations, camps, “messages” and “tribes” in the body of Christ center around one of these major doctrines.
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts
 - c. Deliverance
 - d. Faith
 - e. Praise and Worship
 - f. Prayer
 - g. Theology
 - h. Discipleship

2. The problem with placing any of these concepts at the center of our thinking is that they generally descend into “man-centered” themes!
 - a. Most errors occur by placing ourselves as the central focus of life!
 - b. Only “kingdom-centered” thinking protects us from the errors of “man-centered” thinking.
3. Placing God’s kingdom (and His Lordship) at the center stabilizes and contextualizes truth for us and keeps us balanced in our thinking. This is the essence of the “prophetic view” of scripture!

II. The Centrality of the Kingdom of God

A. Fifteen Proofs from Scripture

1. The law of “frequent mention” teaches us that the importance of any subject of scripture can be accurately discerned by the frequency of references made to that subject. Jesus spoke of the church only twice, *but He referred to the kingdom of God over 120 times!*
2. The primary message of John the Baptist was the kingdom of God. (Mark 1)
3. The first message of Christ was the kingdom of God. (Matthew 4:23)
4. The fullest expression of the gospel is “the gospel of the kingdom”. (Matthew 9:35)
5. The first thing Jesus taught us to pray for in the model prayer is the coming of the kingdom! (Matthew 6:10)
6. The first and foremost thing Jesus taught us to seek was the kingdom of God. One thing that releases God’s prosperity in our lives is to place top priority on kingdom-seeking and righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)
7. The gospel that specifically includes healing and deliverance is the gospel of the kingdom. (Matthew 9:35)
8. The message of power Jesus taught the twelve disciples to preach is the kingdom. (Luke 9:1-2)
9. The message Jesus taught the 70 to preach was the kingdom of God. (Luke 10:1, 8-10)

10. The authentication of God's power over the Devil in deliverance is the essence of the kingdom of God. (Matthew 12:28)

11. The subject of the seven parables in Matthew 13 is the kingdom of God.

12. The primary subject Jesus spoke of after the resurrection was the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:1-3, 6-8)

13. The gospel preached in the Book of Acts was the gospel of the kingdom.

a. Phillip (Acts 8:12)

b. Paul and Silas (Acts 14:22)

c. Paul (Acts 19:8 and 28:23, 31)

14. The Book of Acts closes with teaching of the kingdom day by day! (Acts 28:23, 31)

15. Only when this gospel of the kingdom is preached to the whole world will Christ return. (Matthew 24:14) While so many await the "any-minute" return of Christ, few have considered the implications of this gospel of the kingdom, which alone can fulfill Christ's prediction about when the end will come.

B. Examining the Essence of the Church's Message Today

1. The gospel has suffered reductionism, now most widely understood as relating only to the issue of salvation.

2. Most American Christians have never even considered the meaning of the term "gospel of the kingdom" nor the full implications of Lordship and the kingdom of God.

3. This lack of obedience to God's word has produced an anemic, irrelevant church that fails to impact society and culture.

III. Seven Primary Principles of the Kingdom of God

A. The Kingdom of God is the Expression of Heaven on Earth.

1. Man-centered theology and doctrines focus on man and his comforts rather than God and His glory.

2. “Heaven on earth” is God’s goal, not getting earth to heaven.
3. The “mansions” God is building are not “castles in the sky”! God is not interested in building a place for us to dwell with Him; He desires to prepare a place *in us* where He can dwell!!! (2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:10; 11:14-16; 13:14; Revelation 3:12, 21:10-27)
4. The eternal dwelling place for redeemed mankind is not heaven, but a renovated and renewed earth, which God has given to Abraham and his descendants as an “everlasting possession”! (Genesis 17:8 and 48:4)

B. Kingdom Issues are Authority Issues!

1. The ultimate issue of the conflict described from Genesis to Revelation is “who is in charge???”
2. God has sovereignly allowed the “contest” between good and evil, His word and the Devil’s, the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan, for the express purpose of eternally demonstrating the superiority of His kingdom over all others!
3. Who you serve determines your eternal destiny!

C. The Kingdom of God Explains the Nature of All Conflict.

1. Good and evil can never peacefully coexist.
2. The essence of Christ’s government is expansion and increase.
3. The ever-increasing nature of the kingdom of God makes pressure and conflict inevitable. (Isaiah 9:6, 7)

D. The Kingdom has a “Now” but “Not Yet” Dimension. (Like the fullness of our redemption)

1. In a very real sense, the Kingdom *came* with Christ; this is the meaning in Greek for the term “at hand”. (Mark 1:15)
 - a. Jesus taught repeatedly that the kingdom of God was a present reality!

“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God cometh not with observation.’ ”

Luke 17:20 KJV

“But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.’ ”

Matthew 12:28 KJV

“And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: “And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, ‘the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.’ ”

Luke 10:8-9 KJV

b. Paul told the Romans that the kingdom comes with the Holy Spirit...to have the Spirit is to have the (firstfruits of the) kingdom!

“The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

Romans 14:17

2. Nevertheless, we also understand that the fullness of the kingdom, the manifest expression of Christ’s dominion over all things in His creation, is “not yet.”

“Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.”

Hebrews 2:8 KJV

“...Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places...

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”

Ephesians 1:20, 22-23 KJV

“For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, ‘all things are put under him,’

it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

1 Corinthians 15:27-28 KJV

3. In essence, the kingdom came with Christ and exists in the Holy Spirit within us, while it is ever expanding through us as we take His authority and dominion to the nations!

E. The Kingdom of God is the Sphere or Domain Where God's Rule and Government are Manifested.

1. The church has "mixture" (wheat and tares, etc), but there is no mixture in the kingdom. God is either ruling an area, or He is not.
2. The evidence of the kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy.

F. The Kingdom of God Presents Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King.

1. Christ totally satisfies and fulfills the three typological offices established by God in the Old Testament. These offices define the fullness of His life and ministry, and must all be preached.
 - a. The Prophet—Christ, the Word, is preached
 - b. The Priest—Christ, the Lamb, is preached
 - c. The King—Christ, the Lord, is preached
2. Re-read your New Testament. "In Christ" terminology signifies legal, positional standing; "in the Lord" terminology always is behavioral in nature.

G. The Kingdom of God Pleases God and Brings Glory to Him.

1. The ultimate intent of historical creation is to glorify God and please Him.
2. This purpose, fully manifested, will reveal His kingdom, His power and His glory!

IV. Conclusion

"Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' "

John 3:3 KJV

CAN YOU "SEE" THE KINGDOM???