

The Concept of Kingdom

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Re-Introducing The Church / Kingdom / Matthew 28:18; Colossians 1:13–18; John 3:1–3
Lesson 1 of this Teaching Series

Intro

There is no understanding of church without first understanding the concept of kingdom

- Kingdom permeates throughout every facet of Christendom
 - without kingdom we will not properly understand salvation
 - without kingdom will not understand discipleship
 - without kingdom we cannot properly understand the mission nor the mandate of the church
- Principle: The Wrongly DEFINED is Wrongly APPLIED
- Matthew 28:18-20 “**18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go [c]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”[d]Amen.”
- Colossians 1:17-18 “**17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

The Kingdom Concept

- Dr. Tony Evans gives an awesome illustration of Kingdom
- Every country has an Embassy that is located somewhere in another country

- Each Embassy represents the soil and the sovereignty of the government it represents
- Once you cross the threshold of that Embassy the rules and laws of that country applies
- Embassy then becomes an expansion of the Kingdom it represents
- The church is supposed to be an expansion of the rule of God kingdom in the Earth
- Our Father which are in heaven hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
- Jesus' rule of power and authority is supposed to be demonstrated in heaven and in earth

The Kingdom Revealed

John 3:1-2 “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, **“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”**”

- He is a Pharisee and a ruler - he is of the sect of Rabbinic Judaism -
- which means Rabbinic Jews believed in the Law of God in two parts.. the written law (Torah) and the Oral part (Mishnah)
- Rabbinic Judaism was all rules and no power (rules, and rules to protect the rules, and rules to protect the rules that protect the rules) -
- They have temples - religious systems, rules on top of rules, but they have no POWER!
- Religion and systems , great marketing , personality, pomp and pageantry no power
- We've got mega churches, medium churches, mini churches
- Abundance of churches but we don't have much power to make an impact
- The church is the mechanism/organism by which God reveals His kingdom
 - Acts 2 - the onlookers could not understand what they were seeing/hearing - Peter explained it to them in a power preaching moment

- **The response: “Acts 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”**
- There has to be something about the church that make people look at it and say “I don’t have that, I need that, and I want that, how do I get that?”
- The church is supposed to be the “Salt of the Earth” (Matthew 5)
 - Thirst agent - create a thirst for God by demonstrating an alternative to this present world system that leaves people wanting and unfulfilled

The Kingdom Alternative

- Nicodemus was trying to understand what it was he was seeing
- What was Jesus demonstrating? A Kingdom Alternative
- There aren’t but two Kingdom possibilities: The Kingdom of God where God rules and reigns or the Kingdom of Darkness where Satan and his demonic demons reign
- Colossians 1:13 “**13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and [c]onveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption [d]through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - “delivered us and hath translated” - KJV
 - AMP “**13** [The Father] has delivered *and* [m]drawn us to Himself out of the control *and* the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son [n]of His love,”
- Jesus presence brought to the people something different - an alternative
 - Matthew 7:28-29 “**28** And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, **29** for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”
 - Acts 3 - Peter and John “Silver and gold I do not have , but what I do have I give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”
 - Acts 3:9-10 “**9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God. **10** Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

- We can't offer the world something different trying to be the same
- We must let God's church be God's church - let Him do what He wants to do - we can only do that when we surrender the church to His kingdom