

The Kingdom is the Priority

Modern church has taught a “light” theology about Jesus, what it means to be a christian, and very little on the Kingdom of God.

Some teach salvation as a get out of hell card, fire insurance...a way to become a better person...but Jesus taught salvation as becoming a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom is the Priority of the Bible

The old testament points to Jesus coming. The new testament it's about Jesus and his reign. You have to look at the bible through the lens of the Kingdom of God. - Genesis to Revelation.

Original kingdom - God's plan was for Adam to be a king. - rule and have dominion.

Genesis 1:26 - *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth”*

Jesus came to re-establish the Kingdom of God on this earth.

Mark 1:14-15 - *14 And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God 15 and saying, “**The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the gospel!**”*

The Kingdom is the Priority of Jesus

Jesus primarily spoke about the Kingdom of God. If you read the gospels...Jesus was always talking about the kingdom.

Luke 4:43 *Jesus said - “**I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.**”*

Matthew 9:35 - *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.***

IT'S ABOUT A KING AND A KINGDOM - two things we don't understand.

- Kingdom is not - democracy, a republic, monarchy, communism, socialism.

ALL KINGDOMS HAVE:

- A king - A ruler
- A territory - A domain
- A Constitution - A covenant
- A Citizenry - A community of subjects
- Laws - Acceptable principles
- Privileges - Rights and benefits
- A Code of Ethics - acceptable lifestyle and conduct
- An army - security
- A currency - economic security
- A culture - protocol and procedures

Matthew 6:31-33 - 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But **seek first the kingdom of God** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Seek - to pursue, study, explore, understand, learn, and consider. To seek means to give diligent dedication to and to preoccupy one's self with that which one is seeking.

First - must be our top priority. The main thing. The highest value for the believer...what we focus on more than anything else.

WHATEVER YOU SEEK FIRST ORGANIZES YOUR LIFE

The Kingdom - A kingdom is a governing influence of a King over his territory impacting it with his **will**, his **purpose** and **intent**. Producing a **citizenry of people** who **express his culture** and **reflect his nature**. - Myles Monroe - "Rediscovering the Kingdom"

The Kingdom is the priority of followers of Jesus

His Righteousness - To be righteous means to be in alignment with authority, to be in right standing with God's authority. It means seek a right relationship aligned with the King.

Jesus did not come to establish a religion. He came to establish a Kingdom.

Religion will keep you from the Kingdom of God

Religion preoccupies man with works until he finds the Kingdom.

Religion prepares man to leave earth; the Kingdom empowers man to dominate earth.

Religion focuses on Heaven; the Kingdom focuses on earth.

Religion is trying to get to God; the Kingdom is God coming down to man.

Religion wants to escape earth to get to heaven; the Kingdom seeks to bring Heaven to earth.

The Kingdom of God is about bringing heaven to earth, not just one day, but now!

Matthew 24:14 NLT - 14 And the **Good News about the Kingdom** will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM IS THE GOOD NEWS!

It's not about getting to heaven one day but getting heaven to us now. We are empowered to live supernatural in a natural world. - That is good news!

Hebrews 12:28 - 28 **Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.