



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MINISTRY SCHOOL

Lesson 2 – The Kingdom of God

INTRODUCTION

One of the most misunderstood themes and realities in the Scriptures is that of The Kingdom of God. Ask most Christians what this means, and they will flounder in their answer. Last week we sought to outline the context of the Believer in the world leaving some feeling somewhat vulnerable and exposed.

Today we will seek to explore the protective support matrix called The Kingdom of God which will help to reassure Christians that they are not alone in the World. In fact, a proper understanding of the Kingdom will embolden many to step out into the world knowing that they have nothing to fear.

One key phrase in the Great Commission when Jesus sent His Disciples into the cold hostile world was, “lo I am with you ALWAYS until the end of the age”. This is not just a nice statement but a reality. Everywhere two or three are gathered in His Name, He IS there with them. To understand this, we need to examine and unpack the matrix called THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

The aim of this study is to lay a foundation of truth and understanding that will be necessary to properly contextualise Ministry and what the term means biblically and not how we practice it in parts of the contemporary church.

Ministry school is building on the layers of study done in Foundation and Discipleship schools. We will endeavour to carry everyone along even if you haven't attended any of those classes. We encourage all delegates to find time to go through those classes as they are essential for anyone who wants to get the best out of this teaching program.



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IN CHRIST REALITIES

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* **in Christ**, ⁴ just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He ^{1a}made us accepted **in the Beloved**.

⁷ **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and ^{1b}prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed **in Himself**, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, ^{1a}both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in **Him**. ¹¹ **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted **in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³ **In Him** you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; **in whom** also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who ^{1a}is the ^{1a}guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Every true Believer is NOT of the world but is IN Christ Jesus. This is a spiritual reality that You have to live and breathe to be an effective Ambassador of Christ and His Kingdom

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is **in Christ** [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Saviour], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

2 Corinthians 5:17

This changes the picture completely from our first lesson where we focused on the reality that we as Believers are IN the World but not OF the World. We are



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not orphans and left exposed, but we are IN the matrix of Christ where we are completely and utterly taken care of because we have a Father who cares for all our needs, spiritual, relational, and material.

Being in Christ means we are alive in Him with the eternal life that only comes from God the Father. It also means we are now embedded within the matrix called the Kingdom of God. This is the domain where Christ reigns and His Will is established. Everywhere we go, we are within thought and touching distance of the Kingdom.

"... the Kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:21

*For where two or three are gathered in my Name, there I am in the midst of them
Matthew 18:20*

SO WHATS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

*The LORD has established His throne in heaven,
And His kingdom rules over, all.
Psalm 103:19*

The Lord and King Jesus who rules and rescues or redeems His People. His will is done within the sphere of His Kingdom. There is tangible space for the Kingdom to express itself. The realm where GOD reigns supreme with Jesus Christ as King. In this Kingdom God's authority and rule is unquestioned, recognized and His Will is obeyed.

The Kingdom of God is a very real realm of His reign and rule which starts in Heaven, the abode of Christ the King and which connects everything in the Universe in accordance with His Will. Christ is at the centre of everything related to the Kingdom of God. Anything that is outside of the Will and values of God cannot exist within His Kingdom.



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So even though the essence and 'presence' of God is in everything and everywhere in His created spiritual and material universe, not everything is IN the Kingdom of God.

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; ^[a]neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor ^[a]those who participate in homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revellers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behaviour].

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

THE WORLD vs THE KINGDOM

¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] ^[a]only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Saviour] shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:16-17

God's agenda and heart for the World is to save and redeem it. Therefore, God's Kingdom is manifested through the King of that realm coming Himself into the world and rescue it through His own sacrifice. That is why Jesus begins His ministry by preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. It all begins and ends with Jesus! So everywhere Jesus is, the Kingdom is there. The World is separate from the Kingdom but can be invaded by it at will.

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

John 18:36-37



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So, Jesus comes to establish His Kingdom on Earth, first by winning over the hearts and minds of His people through saving them and triumphing over sin, Satan and death. He empowers them by His Spirit who takes up abode in their hearts and in their midst (the Church).

He then sends them out into all the world so that the different ethnic communities (nations) can be 'colonised' through Love and Faith in Christ. As many as believe, He transforms them into His citizens and disciples. The King has one mission, to transform mankind to mirror Heaven on Earth.

*¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned
Mark 16:15-16*

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10*

The citizens of the Kingdom live on Earth as a witness to the Kingdom and the truth. This matrix of believers on the Earth constitutes the corporate Church of Christ. Which geographically is interconnected by communities called churches and families of Believers.

*¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:19-22*



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THE BODY OF CHRIST/THE CHURCH

*²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
Colossians 1:24*

This study now brings us to the finale of the introduction to this series, The Body Of Christ which is the corporate sum total of all the true Believers connected together by the same Spirit. The entity called the Bride of Christ or His Body is a complex and connected matrix of Believers interwoven together.

*⁴ For as we have **many** members in one body, but **all** the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being **many**, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:
Romans 12:4-6*

*¹² For as the body is one and has **many** members, but **all** the members of that one body, being **many**, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were **all** baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have **all** been made to drink ⁱⁿ into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but **many**.
1 Corinthians 12:12-14*

The first and binding principle of all true Believers alive on the Earth today is that: WE ARE ONE! United by the Spirit of Christ and that unity overrides ethnicity, status, geography or age. Anyone you see working to reconcile man to God or true Christians with each other is flowing with the Spirit of Christ.

This Body of Believers are the Ambassadors of Jesus and the Ministers of Reconciliation that we spoke about in session 1. Nobody works in isolation but connected together. This is the spiritual internet of lives and destinies. In session three, we will now begin to look at the meaning of Ministry in the context of the Body and Humanity.

ASSIGNMENT

The FINAL QUEST by Rick Joyner

(disclaimer; we do not necessarily endorse everything Rick Joyner says but believe this book was a divine revelation for the end time church)

Disciples Homework and Bible Reading habit.