

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
LIVING IN THE REALITY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Message One

Living under God's Rule and Doing the Father's Will

Scripture Reading: Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3; 13:43a; John 3:3-5; Matt. 7:21; 6:10; 12:50

I. The manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens will be the manifestation of the reality of the kingdom of the heavens—the inward content of the kingdom of the heavens in its heavenly and spiritual nature—5:3; 13:43a:

- A. The reality of the kingdom of the heavens is an exercise to the seeking believers—5:3, 20; 7:13-14, 21.
- B. Those who live in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today will be manifested with Christ to be the kings in the millennium—Rev. 20:4, 6.
- C. At this coming back, the Lord Jesus will transfer the reality of the kingdom into the next age to become the manifestation of the kingdom—Matt. 13:43a.

II. The kingdom of the heavens is the heavenly ruling, the heavenly government, of the Lord Jesus—Matt. 25:31, 34:

- A. The Christ who entered into our spirit through regeneration is the King with the kingdom—John 3:5-6; Rom. 8:10; 1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Tim. 4:22.
- B. God's intention in regenerating us is to bring us under His heavenly rule—John 3:3, 5:
 - 1. We have been born into a royal, heavenly family, and we must be exercised in a heavenly way and be governed by a heavenly rule—Matt. 5:48.
 - 2. If we are under this ruling, we will be victorious and overcoming, we will be in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens, and we will enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens to rule and reign with the Lord—25:21, 23; Rev. 20:4-6.
- C. Joseph represents the reigning aspect of a mature life—Gen. 45:8, 26a:
 - 1. Joseph's life was controlled and directed by his dreams—37:5-11.
 - 2. Joseph denied himself and lived under God's restriction, realizing that everything that happened to him was according to God's sovereignty—Matt. 16:24; 7:13-14; Gen. 45:5-9; 50:15-21; Rom. 8:28.

III. In order to enter into the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age, we must do the will of the Father in this age—Matt. 7:21:

- A. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure, and He created all things for His will that He might fulfill His purpose—Rev. 4:11:
 - 1. God's will is His heart's desire, His mingling with man, and the fulfillment of His eternal plan—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 5:17.
 - 2. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness for His expression—Rom. 12:2, 5; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11, 22-23.
- B. The kingdom is absolutely a matter of God's will and completely fulfills God's will; in fact, the kingdom is God's will—Matt. 6:10.

- C. As the kingdom people, we are on earth to do the Father's will—7:21; 12:50.
- D. In order to do the will of the Father, we need to enter in through the narrow gate and walk on the constricted way—7:13-14:
 - 1. The narrow gate excludes the old man, the self, the flesh, the human concepts, and the world with all its glory; only that which corresponds to God's will can enter in.
 - 2. As we walk on the constricted way, we are restricted by a mysterious, invisible, inward control, and we live under this control.
- E. We need to pray for the Father's will to be done on earth as in the heavens; this is to bring the kingdom of the heavens to the earth—6:10.

Message Two

The Kingdom of God as the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:1-13

- I. **The kingdom of God is the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus—Mark 9:1-2.**
- II. **What is described in Mark 9:1-13 is a picture of the kingdom of God coming in power; the center of this picture is the glorified Jesus, and with Him are Moses and Elijah, representing the Old Testament saints, and Peter, James, and John, representing the New Testament saints—vv. 2-4.**
- III. **For the Lord Jesus to be transfigured meant that His humanity was saturated and permeated with His divinity; this transfiguration, which was His glorification, was equal to His coming in His kingdom—v. 2:**
 - A. The Lord's word in verse 1 about the coming of the kingdom of God in power was fulfilled by His transfiguration on the mountain—vv. 2-3.
 - B. The transfiguration, the shining, of the Lord Jesus was His coming in His kingdom; where His transfiguration is, there is the coming of the kingdom—Mark 9:1-4; Luke 9:27-31:
 1. For the Lord Jesus to be transfigured meant that His humanity was saturated and permeated with His divinity; this transfiguration, which was His glorification, was equal to His coming in His kingdom—Mark 9:2.
 2. The transfiguration of the Lord Jesus was the realization of what He is.
 - C. The kingdom is the shining of the reality of the Lord Jesus; to be under His shining is to be in the kingdom—Rev. 22:4-5.
- IV. **Christ has been sown into our hearts as a seed; this seed will grow and develop until it blossoms and is manifested in glory—Mark 4:26-29; Col. 3:3-4:**
 - A. In Mark 9 we see the transfiguration of Christ as the seed sown in Mark 4.
 - B. The One whom we have received as the seed of the kingdom of God needs to grow in us until He blossoms from within us; this blossoming will be the transfiguration of the Lord in us in a practical, experiential way—Col. 1:27.
 - C. When Christ is transfigured within us, that transfiguration becomes the kingdom of God ruling over everything in our life—v. 13.
 - D. The church as the kingdom of God cannot exist in the natural life but can exist only in this realm of transfiguration—Mark 8:35-36; 9:1-2; Matt. 16:25-27.
 - E. At the time of the manifestation of the kingdom, our humanity will be glorified by the glorious divinity within us—Col. 1:27:
 1. In one sense, the Lord will come back from heaven, but in another sense, He will come out of from within us—Phil. 3:20-21.
 2. When Christ fully lives Himself out of us, that will be the time of His coming—Matt. 16:27; 2 Thes. 1:10; Col. 1:27; 3:4.
 3. In the millennium the overcoming believers will be with Christ in the bright glory of the kingdom—Matt. 13:43a.

Message Three

Living the Kingdom Life in the Church Life for God's Building

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17-18 Rom. 14:17

- I. To be built up with fellow believers is the Lord's supreme and highest requirement of His faithful seekers according to the oneness of the Divine Trinity—John 17:**
 - A. The constitution of the kingdom of the heavens is not for individuals but for a corporate people—Matt. 5:3-16.
 - B. Being built up with fellow partakers of the divine life is the highest virtue of one who pursues after Christ according to God's eternal economy—Eph. 2:21-22; Phil. 3:7-12.
- II. The Bible first presents the kingdom and thereafter presents the church; the presence of the kingdom produces the church—Matt. 4:23; 16:18-19:**
 - A. The life of God is the kingdom of God, and this life produces the church—John 3:3, 5; Matt. 7:14, 21; 19:17, 29; 25:46.
 - B. The kingdom is the reality of the church; therefore, apart from the kingdom life, we cannot live the church life—Matt. 5:3; 16:18-19; Rev. 1:4-6, 9:
 1. The reality of the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 5—7) is the content of the church life; without the reality of the kingdom, the church is empty.
 2. Since the kingdom life issues in the church life, as we live corporately in the kingdom life, we spontaneously live the church life—Rom. 14:17.
 3. A believer who does not live in the reality of the kingdom cannot be built into the structure of the church—Eph. 2:22.
 - C. Without the kingdom as the reality of the church, the church cannot be built up—Matt. 16:18-19:
 1. The church is brought into being through the authority of the kingdom.
 2. The keys of the kingdom are given to make the building of the church possible—v. 19; 18:18; cf. John 20:23.
 3. When the kingdom of the heavens is able to assert its authority over a company of believers, those believers can be built up into the church—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16.
- III. The genuine church is the kingdom of God in this age; today the believers live the kingdom life in the church—Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17-18; 13:44-46; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Eph. 2:19; Col. 4:11; Rev. 1:4-6:**
 - A. In the church as the kingdom, we are under rule, government, discipline, and exercise—1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5.
 - B. Although the church today is God's kingdom, we are in the kingdom in reality only when we live, walk, and have our being in the spirit, not in our natural man—Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16, 25.

Message Four

The Kingdom of God as the Kingdom of the Son of God's Love

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 John 1:5; 5:11-12; 4:8, 16

- I. The Father has “delivered us out of the authority of darkness”—Col. 1:13:**
- A. The authority of darkness denotes the authority of Satan—Matt. 12:26:
 - 1. Darkness is Satan as death—Heb. 2:14.
 - 2. Light is God as life—1 John 1:5-6.
 - B. To be delivered out of the authority of darkness is to be delivered from the devil, who has the might of death—Heb. 2:14; John 17:15.
 - C. We have been delivered from the devil, Satan, by the death of Christ and by the life of Christ in resurrection—Col. 2:14-15; John 5:24.
 - D. The Father has delivered us out of Satan's authority of darkness into God's marvelous light—1 Pet. 2:9.
- II. The Father has “transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”—Col. 1:13:**
- A. The kingdom of the Son is the authority of Christ—Rev. 11:15; 12:10.
 - B. The Son of God is the embodiment and expression of the divine life; therefore, the kingdom of the Son is a realm of life—1 John 5:11-12:
 - 1. To be transferred into the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love is to be transferred into the Son, who is life to us—Col. 3:4.
 - 2. The Son in resurrection is now the life-giving Spirit, and He rules us in His resurrection life with His love—1 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 3. When we live by the Son as our life in resurrection, we are living in His kingdom, enjoying Him in the Father's love—John 6:57.
 - C. The fact that we have been transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God's love indicates that this realm of life is in love, not in fear—Col. 1:13:
 - 1. The kingdom in which we find ourselves today is a realm full of life, light, and love—1 John 1:1-2; 5, 7; 4:8, 16.
 - 2. The Son as the object of the divine love becomes to us the embodiment of the divine life in the divine love with the authority of resurrection; this is the kingdom of the Son of God's love.
 - 3. The Father has transferred us into a realm where we are ruled in love with life:
 - a. Here, under the heavenly ruling and restriction, we have genuine freedom in love, with life, and under light—Matt. 7:13-14.
 - b. Here in this kingdom we enjoy Christ and have the church life—Col. 1:12; 4:15-16.
 - D. In the kingdom of the Son of God's love, the will of God is carried out—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; Col. 1:9; 4:12.