



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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Christ's Church – The Kingdom

By Ross Ward

Our lesson this morning is about the Heavenly Kingdom and I thought it was a good idea to provide a few highlights of the church kingdom that we studied about a few weeks ago.

Luke introduces baby Jesus in his gospel as the heir to the throne of David, The King. He records the words of an angel prophesying about him:

Lk 1:32-33, He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Here we see the joyful announcement of the fulfillment of centuries old prophecies, the Messiah has come, the savior of God's people. By Luke's introduction we see that the Kingdom of God was near and Jesus was going to be reigning as it's king. Jesus states that the kingdom was near, that is about to become reality.

Mt 4:11, From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Nicodemus was told how to become part of the Kingdom, a prophecy of the upcoming ordinance of baptism. In 3:3-8. We see from these scriptures that

there was a kingdom about to be established but we also learn that it was not one they were expecting. As Jesus is about to ascend back into heaven they ask Jesus if “wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6. We find that the Apostles still did not understand the nature of the kingdom and this is a very important doctrine of the New Testament. Jesus proclaims the nature of his kingdom to Pilate. We find that he was accused of tyranny and his answer is very revealing.

Jn 18:36-37, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice.

Here Jesus admits he is King, that was the purpose of him coming to earth, but he makes it clear he is not a threat to the Roman empire. His kingdom is not a physical kingdom. The very nature of which the apostles were confused about in Acts 1:6. We see that many if not most people expected Jesus to be a literal physical king sitting on a physical throne ruling over Israel and saving them from their enemies by the sword. That is not Jesus' purpose as king.

One would certainly ask that if he was to be a king and if he is a king then, where is his kingdom. That very question is asked by the Pharisees' and Jesus gives the answer that few understood:

Lk 17:20-21, 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:
21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Paul States: Rom 14:21, For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Again, we see that the kingdom was not a physical kingdom but one that was within men, one of righteousness, peace, and joy. Like Jesus said, it is not one of this world, it is a spiritual kingdom.

The Christian's were instructed that they were translated and called into Jesus' kingdom:

Col 1:13, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

Verse 18 confirms that this is the church.

1 Thes 2:12, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory

We see in these two passages Paul tells Christians that they are in the Kingdom of Jesus. The Kingdom had come. It was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 where Luke records the beginning of the church, fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies.

Maybe these passages help clarify some of the confusion about the kingdom teachings and prophecies. It is important for Christians to realize that we are citizens of a kingdom that has a reigning king. Our king, Jesus, has given instructions for how we should live our lives. Paul instructed the Christians in Thessalonica to walk worthy of this calling, 1 Thes 2:12.

A Note about our lesson this morning. As one considers the kingdom teachings, we realize there is a second kingdom, one of an eternal heavenly nature. As we look at teachings about this other kingdom, it is good to understand the current church kingdom and its nature. After all, as Christians we desire to be part of each kingdom and each has qualifications for entrance.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Porters are traveling overseas planning to return this week
- Chad & Kass will be traveling to Las Vegas this week
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, remains in rehab
- Richard Empey is having test because of some health problems
- Cameron Bauman brain tumor and radiation treatments
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Worship Assignments for the month of September are posted on the bulletin board

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader –

Lord's Table – Ray Mitchell
– Tom Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – Chad Mitchell

Invitation – Tom Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM

Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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