

KINGDOM OF GOD: PRESENT REALITY AND FUTURE HOPE

“We should live our lives TODAY, in preparation for the eternal Kingdom of God TOMORROW”.

What is the “Kingdom of God (a.k.a. Kingdom of Heaven)”?

The Kingdom of God is the rule of God and is both a present reality and a future hope. The current Kingdom of God here on earth is primarily “spiritual” in nature; someday Jesus will fully rule the eternal new heaven and new earth. Each of us that has personally believed and received the gift of salvation that Jesus offers is a member of God’s Kingdom – and we have the privilege to partner with Him to strengthen and expand His Kingdom (Book of Matthew; Luke 17:21; John 18:36; Revelation chapters 21 & 22).

→ The key component of the Kingdom of God is people!! ←

Jesus while on earth taught extensively about the Kingdom of God!

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Following are some key biblical teachings about the Kingdom of God:

- 1) **Kingdom of God started small, but has g_____ and will continue to g_____.** (Parables of “Mustard Seed” and “the Yeast” – Matthew 13:31-33)

Jesus: “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Mathew 16:18).

- 2) **Kingdom of God is very v_____.** (Parables of “Pearl”, “Hidden Treasure” and “New Treasure” - Matthew 13:44-46, 52)

- 3) **There are o_____ to entering the Kingdom of God. God invites all to enter, but many will miss out.** (I Timothy 2:1-6; 2 Peter 3:9)

Parables of the “Wedding Banquet” and “Great Banquet” – Mathew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-23

- Some are **too busy with earthly things**; some mistreat and disrespect God’s messengers

Parable of the “Tenants” – Matthew 21:33-44

- Kingdom of God given to those who follow Jesus and His teachings; often those who follow Him are the “outcasts” not the “elite”

Parable of the “Two Sons” – Matthew 21:28-31

- Some don’t follow through on good intentions – actions speak louder than words

Pride is an obstacle (Matthew 18:1-4)

Earthly **riches** can be an obstacle (story of rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-26)

- 4) **E** _____ person can enter the Kingdom of God thanks to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

Great honor and privilege to be a member of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 11:12)

Must humble ourselves like a little child (Matthew 18:1-4). We have all sinned and fall short of God’s standard and deserve eternal separation from Him (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

Doing “good works” is not enough to get into the Kingdom of God (Matthew 7:21-23; Eph 2:8-9).

To become a true member of God’s kingdom (i.e. be “born again”, “saved”) we must believe and receive the gift of salvation that Jesus offers us.

Read John 3:1-18

John 1:12-13 “... to all who **received** Him (Jesus), to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ...”

Colossians 1:12-14 teaches that receiving the gift of salvation results in us being rescued from the kingdom of darkness and being moved into the kingdom of light (i.e. kingdom of Jesus).

- 5) **The earthly Kingdom of God is now “m_____”, but someday God will sort out the true members from the pretenders.** (Parables of the “Weeds” and the “Net” - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 47-50)
- 6) **Entering the Kingdom of God l_____ in life does not limit the reward potential (due to God’s grace).** (Parable of the “Workers in the Vineyard” - Matthew 20:1-16)
- 7) **If we s_____ His Kingdom, God will supply our basic needs** (Matthew 6:25-33).
- 8) **As m_____ of the Kingdom of God, we should possess certain characteristics and priorities (i.e. living a Kingdom lifestyle).**
 - **Forgiving & Merciful** (Parable of the “Unmerciful Servant – Matthew 18:21-35)
 - **Humble** (Matthew 5:3, 18:1-4)
 - **Obedient** (Parable of “Two Sons” – Mathew 21:28-31; also Matthew 7:21-23)
 - **Faithful managers of God’s resources** (Parables of the “Tenants” and “Talents – Luke 19:11-26; Matthew 25:14-30)
 - **Sharing God’s word and putting it into practice** (Parable of “Sower” – Matthew 13:3-8,18-23)
 - **Compassionate to the “least and the less”** (Matthew 25: 31-46)
 - **Outreach oriented, helping people find Jesus and God’s kingdom** (Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1)
 - **Love God and people** (Matthew 22:34-40; John 13:34-35)
 - **Whatever we do, doing it for the glory of God** (I Corinthians 10:31)
- 9) **It takes e_____ to grow the Kingdom of God** (Matthew 11:12).
- 10) **We can help strengthen and g_____ the Kingdom of God.**
 - **Live out the kingdom lifestyle God desires (see #8) and let others see our good works and bring glory to God** (Matthew 5:13-16; John 13:34-35)

- **Pray** (Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...*”)
- **Share good news of Jesus and reach out to those not yet in God’s kingdom** (God supernaturally brings the harvest/results – Parable of the “Growing Seed” in Mark 4:26-29).
- **Focus on God and His agenda, not ours** (Matthew 6:19-33)
- **Rely on Jesus and the Holy Spirit and partner with them** (Phil 4:13; Acts 1:8)
- **Partner with God and other believers to build a strong, healthy, loving, united and growing local church** (Acts 2:42-47; John 13:34-35, 17: 20-23) (Philippians 4:13; Acts 1:8)

- 11) **We are “r_____” in the future eternal Kingdom of God based on what we do today (see handout “Heavenly Rewards”).**
- 12) **The eternal Kingdom to come (new Heaven and new Earth) will be a_____beyond anything we can possibly imagine. This future hope should inspire us and give us an eternal perspective** (Isaiah 65:17-19; John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 2:9; Revelation chapters 21 & 22; refer to Randy Alcorn’s book “Heaven” and handout “Great Truths About the Eternal New Heaven and New Earth”)

<p>I Corinthians 2:9: “...no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”.</p>
