

ARE YOU IN THE KINGDOM?

Many today look for a coming kingdom of God, one that Jesus will establish when He returns. One with Jesus as the king and sitting on a throne in Jerusalem as did David in the long ago. However, their looking will all be in vain. Jesus will not return and set up a kingdom in Jerusalem. Oh, He will return, that's a fact. As Jesus ascended into heaven two angels proclaimed that he would come again in like manner (Acts 1:11). What will not take place when He comes is the establishment of a kingdom! Why? Because it has already been established. The apostle Paul stated that the Colossian brethren had been translated into the kingdom of the Lord (Col. 1:13). The apostle John stated while on the isle of Patmos that he was in the kingdom (Rev. 1:9). The only way any could be in the kingdom is if the kingdom was already in existence then.

Jesus is currently sitting on His throne, reigning over His kingdom. Peter said of Him, "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (I Pet. 3:22). Paul, in writing to the Corinthians pointed out that Christ had risen from the dead (I Cor. 15:20). He further pointed out that Christ is reigning and will reign until He has put all enemies under his feet and the last enemy will be death (I Cor. 15:25-26). Death will cease at the time of the resurrection. Paul pointed out that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven (I Cor. 15:50). There will be a change at the resurrection, the corruptible will put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality at which time death will have been swallowed up in victory (I Cor. 15:52-54). Then, Jesus will deliver the kingdom to the Father and cease to reign (I Cor. 15:24, 28).

Friends, the kingdom on earth is the church of our Lord which began on that first Pentecost following the Lord's ascension and recorded in Acts chapter two. According to Isaiah, the Lord would establish His kingdom in the last days and he refers to it as the "house of God" (Isa. 2:2-3). Peter said that what took place on the day of Pentecost was the beginning of the last days (Acts 2:16-17). And the church is the "house of God" (I Tim. 3:16).

If you are not in the kingdom at this time, you are not one of the saved, for salvation is in the kingdom, the Lord's church. Obey the gospel and be added to the kingdom!

Robert

SUNDAY NIGHT AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT

It just may be that some members do not realize that we have an evening service each Sunday. We meet at 6:00 and worship God. On the first Sunday of each month, the majority of our time is spent in singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 we meet for Bible study. Most probably know we have a Sunday morning Bible study too.

Now, in the event you knew of these gatherings of the saints, but have elected to just not attend we would wonder why. I have on occasion heard people question if they had to attend on Sunday night. When one questions if they have to do anything, the implication is that they do not want to, but they will if they have to. Such a mindset is foreign to serving God. If one "loves the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37), he will desire to be at every service possible. Who with such fervent love for God would even dream of missing an opportunity to gather with those of like precious faith and worship the God of heaven? Remember, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). Just think, Jesus comes and finds you missing.

Concerning both scheduled Bible studies, who could possibly say that they already know all there is to know of God's word. If any has such knowledge, please come and teach the rest of us, for we still need to learn. The Hebrew writer said, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God..."(Heb. 5:12). I fear there are many more who do not come to Bible study in this class, than the first.

Brethren, what if God blessed only in the amount that He "had to"? He certainly didn't "have to" send His only begotten Son to die upon the cross for our sins, that we might have opportunity for a heavenly home! He didn't "have to" provide His word so that we could study it and learn of His will! He doesn't "have to" hear our prayers! But, God has done much more than He "had to". What about you? Are you trying to just squeeze by, doing the least that you think you can get away with? Are you giving what you have to, Studying all you have to, Teaching all we have to and attending all the services you have to? If so, You will not "have to" go to heaven!

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