

Sermon Outline August 7, 2016
"Living for God's Kingdom" Romans 14:17

I. What are we talking about when we speak of "the Kingdom of God?"

1. It is the realm in which God rules, where God is sovereign! In one sense everyone and everything is under God's rule and control –

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
(Proverbs 16:33 NKJ)

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, (Ephesians 1:11 NKJ)

... I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:34-35 NKJ)

2. In another sense, it is that realm "Heaven" or that realm in the future, the New Heaven and New Earth, where not only does God rule and control but also His righteous rule, is fully acknowledged. It is that place or that time, where there is NO SIN! –

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
(Matthew 6:10 NKJ)

- A. In this second sense God's Kingdom is set opposite Satan's – Satan is called the ruler of this world – **John 12:31; 14:30 & 16:11**
- B. It is because of this opposition to God's Kingdom, we currently are in a spiritual battle –

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you

may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
(Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJ)

- C. We are in this battle because we have been transferred from one Kingdom to another –

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14 NKJ)

II. What does Paul mean when he says the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking?

When Paul says that the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, he is not saying these things are not in any way part of God's Kingdom –

"Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:25 NKJ)

- But what he is saying is there are certain things not worth seeking, hungering, fighting for or about in God's Kingdom – **Romans 14:1-16**

Here Paul is talking about food offered to idols, doubtful things!

III. There are much more worthy things to seek, fight and hunger for that are the essence of God's Kingdom:

1. Righteousness:

A. The imputed righteousness of Christ –

- Christ won this righteousness for us, it is God's righteousness –

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. (Romans 3:21-28 NKJ)

- We have no righteousness apart from what we have been given – **Romans 3:10-11**
- This imputed righteousness of Christ is valuable, Christ paid a high price to obtain it for us –

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJ)

- *Christ suffered, was made sin, that we might be made righteous –*

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

- B. *We are “blessed” if our own desire for righteousness is a hunger –*

Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6 NKJ)

- C. *Our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees –*

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the* righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20 NKJ)

- *The Pharisees had a mere outward righteousness –Matthew 23:25-28*
- *This is not a flesh / human righteousness but Christ’s – Philippians 3:1-14*
- *A righteousness we won’t fully attain in this life but we press for –*

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14 NKJ)

- D. *This righteousness involves a recognition of the holiness of God’s Law and a fear of the great Lawgiver –*

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off.¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." (Exodus 20:18-20 NKJ)

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

- 2. *Peace –*

- A. *Also attained through Christ’s cross –*

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2 NKJ)

- B. *Also worth seeking, fighting for –*

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7 NKJ)

- C. *This comes with a focus on God and an understanding of His sovereignty –*

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose* mind *is* stayed on *You*, Because he trusts in *You*.⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, *is* everlasting strength. (Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJ)

This is why God allows our difficulties and trials – Romans 5:3-5

- 3. *Joy in the Holy Spirit - this is also won by Jesus Christ, He cleansed our Temple with His own blood that we might be filled with God’s Spirit, with JOY and even with all the fullness of God –*

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height--¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJ)

1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:11-22; Revelation 3:12

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