

For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.

Luke 17:21

Store In My Heart

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. (CSB)

This letter was likely written between 60 and 70 AD. While we have no knowledge of the writer, his purpose is clear. The focus on shadows from the Old Covenant shows he wrote to Jews who had believed Christ. The author urges his readers to look to Christ, who is supreme, rather than the shadows that pointed to Him.

The superiority of Christ is shown to help these brethren remain faithful in face of the urging of their Jewish friends. For us it gives confidence in our Savior and Lord to see us through any struggles we might face. Faith in Jesus will bring us to our rest.

Rule And The Kingdom

Robert F. Turner

...and if Satan casteth out Satan he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore shall they be your judges. But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then is the kingdom of God come upon you" (**Matthew 12:26-28**).

Two "kingdoms" are in existence: God's and the Devil's. The nature of each and how I become a part of them is vital to our understanding.

A baby is born and in a safe relationship with God (Ezek. 18:20). Its death, while certainly sad, does not bring a sorrow that cannot be consoled (**2Samuel 12:23**) for it is "safe in the arms of Jesus."

But as the child grows his relationship with God changes. While a "young man" (**Psalms 119:9**), at some "age of accountability" (**Ecclesiastes 11:9-10**), he begins to allow the will of Satan to rule in his heart and life. He freely chooses the Devil over God, becoming obedient to his will, and thus a part of the kingdom: the rule of the Devil (**John 8:44**)

As this man matures, however, he comes to appreciate that God doesn't want men to die in sin (**2Peter 3:9**). He further learns of the "good news" that God sent His Son to die for the sins of men (**2Corinthians 5:14-15**). Once again he exercises his free will in obedience — this time to the will of God. In so doing he becomes a part of the kingdom: the rule



Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach's test results are good. Now they are checking heart rhythm. Her blood pressure is still a problem and she has some difficulty breathing.

Jim Soliday was still getting over the flu last week. Sue Soliday is doing better in recovery from a twisted rib.

John Jackson is in Florida this week.

Tonight 2Kings 8:16
Wednesday
Hebrews 5:11.

Pray for safety,
courage & healing.

of God over hearts submissive to His will. This obedience involves, initially, a real change of heart toward all past sins (**Acts 17:30**) and immersion in water to wash them away (**Acts 22:16**). This same submissive attitude toward God will cause him to "walk in the light" (**1John 1:7**), dead to continuing in sin (**Romans 6:1-14**); because he allows God's seed, His will, to abide in him (**1John 3:9**).

But after a period of faithful service, the world pulls, his faith weakens, and love grows cold. Once more the will of the Devil becomes his will. Once more he becomes obedient: Once again he is in the kingdom: now doing the will of the Devil (**1Corinthians 5:1-5**). In his apostasy he is once again what he was before: a son of the one obeyed (**Romans 6:16**), no longer worthy to be or be called God's son (**Romans 8:14; Luke 15:19,21**).

However, this man is not beyond hope. Successful efforts are made to strengthen his faith and rekindle his love (**2Corinthians 2:5-6**). His allegiance changes. Once more he renounces the will of the Devil and obeys the will of God. Repentance and prayer reflect an obedient attitude once more. God again rules in his life. Once again he is part of the kingdom (**2Corinthians 5: 7-8**).

Two kingdoms: God's and Satan's. Not "institutions" but relationships entered into and sustained by the submission and continued obedience of our spirits to the will and rule of either our Father (**Romans 1:9**) or our adversary (**Ephesians 2:2**); for we can have but one Master (**Matthew 6:24**). May His will be ours and His kingdom within us (**Luke 17:21**). David Smitherman

(I do not know if this article was written by Robert Turner or David Smitherman. Nonetheless it is a good article and I have found many such articles on the website where brother Turner's Plain Talk is archived along with Foy Wallace's Gospel Guardian/Bible Banner which was later edited by both Fanning Yater Tant and Roy Cogdil. If you are interested in such articles visit the Words Fitly Spoken website (wordsfitlyspoken.org) for the archives of these periodicals from decades past. The writings of men of faith in those years dealt with many issues and problems we face today from brethren and the denominations around us. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!