

The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst. **Luke 17:20-21**

Store In My Heart Ephesians 5:18-19

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

Those who belong to the family of God are to be spiritual people. We are to be motivated by spiritual things. Paul warns against filling ourselves with the things of this world and teaches us to focus on encouraging each other with spiritual messages in song.

Those who are focused upon filling themselves and their brethren with the things of God will have no room in their heart for the things of this world.

One advantage of coming together for regular worship is the opportunity to join together in praise of our God. This praise, when offered from the heart, will provide us with teaching that will remain in our thoughts even when we are apart.



Kingdom Questions

Robert F. Turner

Question: Does the word kingdom sometimes mean the rule and reign of Christ in the heart of a person as seems to be inferred by **Luke 17:21**?

Reply: It is my understanding that the word *basileia* (kingdom) always refers to rule and only by extension does it refer to the citizens, the territory or dominion — realm, such as is contemplated when we say the church is Christ's kingdom.

Moulton and Milligan (*Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*) say, As kingship, or sovereignty in the abstract is necessarily the root meaning of this word, it is easy to see how the passage into the concrete could either be on the lines of our dominion (cf. our Sovereign and his dominions), or follow the outward and visible signs of royalty.

When we see the word kingdom we should think rule. Then, after the idea of rule is firmly planted in our mind, we may examine the context to see if, in this case, the word is extended to designate the realm of that rule, the people ruled, the nature of that rule (physical or spiritual), or some other extended use. We do ourselves, and our readers or hearers, a grave injustice when we say the church and the kingdom are the same without adequate explanation. The erroneous institutional concept of church that is so prevalent only complicates and compounds the error. R. L. Whiteside put it well when he wrote: In its broadest sense the church is that body of people who have been called out of sin into the service of Christ. As Jesus rules over this body of people, it is his kingdom. (*Kingdom of Promise and Prophecy*; p.177.) (See P.T., V.4, No. 5)

Question: In **Matthew 13:41** to what does his kingdom refer; the church or world??

Reply: First — note that the servants are angels (**Matthew 13:27-30,39-41**) and the reaping or gathering out refers to final judgement, with no reference at all to discipline administered by the saints in an effort to save a brother.

The field is the world (**Matthew 13:38**), so both the good seed and the tares are in the world (though saints are not of the world) so it is to the world that the angels shall be sent in the end of this world (**Matthew 13:40**) to dispose of the wicked ones. I have no problem in considering the world as his kingdom (**Matthew 13:41**) in the sense that God rules (has authority over) the world and all things. I believe we err in supposing that a figure like kingdom must always be used in the same sense, everywhere.

However, as both the saints and sinners must face a final judgement, some prefer to interpret **Matthew 13:41** as a reference to the final disposition of citizens (church members) who offend and do iniquity. They thus preserve a more-or-less traditional concept of church— but at the cost of the basic idea in kingdom. Better, I think, to keep the basic idea of kingdom (see above) and let each context adjust its application.

*So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Matthew 13:40-42***

(The above article can be found on the website, WordsFitlySpoken.org. This site has Robert Turner's Plain Talk, and several other old publications. Such resources can be very helpful as we study Scriptures. They are especially helpful when we need to study issues among 'brethren' that have led to division in the past. Most of these are still issues we must deal with today. Take advantage of these in your own, careful, study. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Annette Gray is recovering from her injuries. She still has a week or so before the soreness goes away.

Brenda Keisler is scheduled for an MRI & X-ray in a few weeks.

Ruben Keisler is waiting on Dr for his elbow surgery.

Malcolm Rigsby's migraines are becoming more manageable.

JoBeth Henderson is dealing with weakness & sleepiness. She will talk with her surgeon Thursday of this week.

Tommy Robinson has some inflation in his lung and is to see the Dr in July.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 59** Wednesday @ 7 - **Revelation 19:17**