

THE KING'S KINGDOM (Matthew 16:13-19)

I. The foundation of the kingdom.

- A. Jesus said "upon this rock I will build my church."
- B. The foundation for the church is a rock, not Peter.
 - 1. Catholics believe this makes Peter the foundation.
 - 2. The word rock Jesus used means large boulder, whereas Peter means small pebble.
- C. Peter is masculine gender while rock is female gender.
- D. Jesus was saying, "Peter you are a small stone, but this kingdom will be built upon the massive rock, the great principle, of my deity."
- E. 1 Corinthians 3:11 shows this to be true.
- F. Even death could not prevent this from being the foundation.

II. The designation of the kingdom.

- A. The kingdom and the church are the same institution.
- B. It's also called the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18).
- C. Just a few years ago the head of the Catholic Church died and for several days it existed without a head.
 - 1. The cardinals got together to elect one of their fallible number to be their infallible head.
 - 2. We should be glad we are part of a body whose head never dies.
- D. We know that kingdom, church and body don't mean the same thing.
 - 1. Church is also described as the vineyard of the Lord.
 - 2. It is called the House of God (1 Timothy 3:15).
- E. Body of Christ refers to the fellowship aspect of it.
- F. Kingdom refers to its government.
- G. Church refers to that group called out of sin.
- H. Suppose someone asks you about me - who is that man?
 - 1. You could say he is a preacher - describes his labor.
 - 2. You could say he is a white man - describes his color.
 - 3. You could say he is a husband - his marital status.
- I. We use different terms to describe the same person or group.

III. The nature of the kingdom.

- A. It is not a democracy, but a kingdom with Jesus making the laws, judging the people and enforcing the law.
- B. It is not a physical kingdom, but over hearts of men (Luke 17:21).
- C. It is hard to grasp because we think of the Old Testament kingdom of the Jews.
 - 1. God was King - combination of church and state.
 - 2. The Old Testament church had to enforce the laws.
 - 3. Men became members of the Mosaic church by birth.
- D. When Jesus died and was resurrected it changed the nature of the church.
- E. Isaiah 2:1-4.
 - 1. Time is mentioned - last days - Peter quoted from Joel and said,

“This is that ...”

2. Extent is mentioned - “All nations shall flow into it...”
 3. Place of beginning is mentioned - “Jerusalem.”
- F. Verse four talks about its nature.
1. God would separate church and state.
 2. In the Old Testament, God’s people waged physical war.
 3. If God had not changed the nature, then elders would be in charge of civil rule as well as spiritual.
- G. Our text shows that it is singular in nature - “My church.”
- H. Ephesians 1:20-23 - Christ became the head after resurrection.
- I. Ephesians 2:11-16 - Jesus died to bring Jew & Gentile into one.
- J. Ephesians 3:6 + Ephesians 4:4.
- K. Ephesians 5:22-33 - compares church to marriage.
1. How many wives do we have?
 2. How many churches are there?
- L. Jesus built His church/kingdom (Colossians 1:13).

IV. The time of establishment of the kingdom.

- A. Some say that Revelation teaches the church/kingdom is in the future.
- B. There is a lot of speculation about things in Revelation but notice:
1. In chapter 1 John writes 1-5 (no signs or symbols yet) then 6 and says the kingdom is here (ASV says “made us to be a kingdom”).
 2. Then go down 7, 8, 9 where John writes he is in the kingdom.
- C. Luke said people were added to it (Acts 2:47).
- D. Paul said the Colossian Christians were in it (1:13).
- E. John said he was in it.
- F. The church is mentioned in the future before Acts 2 and as in existence after Acts 2.
- G. Peter said this is that of which the prophet Joel spoke.
- H. All we need to know about the church is found in the New Testament.
- I. Any man can find it if he will look.

V. The identification of the kingdom.

- A. Someone stole my car out of the church parking lot in Memphis.
1. I called the police, they asked for the make and model.
 2. Suppose I said, “It doesn’t make any difference, just find me a car.”
 3. When was it made - it doesn’t matter.
 4. What is the license plate number - it doesn’t matter, just find me a car.
- B. They would have hung up the phone if I acted that way.
- C. The police would probably think I was drunk if I did that.
- D. However, if I tell the world it doesn’t matter what church you belong to, I am viewed as enlightened and a scholar.
1. The police to whom I gave the description found my car.
 2. It would be hard for the policemen to find the Lord’s church because man has destroyed its marks of distinction.
- E. Long ago, they used to advertise, “Use our tobacco, it’s less irritating.”
1. Would a mother buy milk advertised this way?

2. Would you buy clothes advertised this way?
- F. When you hear someone say there is nothing in a name we should know that person is wrong.
- G. God has placed several identification marks on His church.
 1. One is the name at which we have already looked.
 2. Another is its organization:
 - a. The New Testament church has elders and deacons.
 - (1) Elders to rule;
 - (2) Deacons to serve.
 - b. There are no offices beyond these.
 3. Another is its law of entrance.
 - a. To be in the King's kingdom, one has to experience the new birth (John 3:3, 5).
 - b. You don't join it, the Lord adds you to it.
 - c. He won't make a mistake into which church He places you.
 4. The New Testament church can be identified by its worship.
- H. Look at churches today and compare their identification marks to that of the New Testament church.
- I. In the days of Alexander Campbell, men began to preach like this.
 1. Campbell didn't build, but he helped restore it.
 2. Like someone restoring the rules of baseball after it going out of existence.
- J. Jesus built the church, set up its organization, work, worship and terms of entrance.
 1. Men came along and covered it up.
 2. We need to take God's rule book and play the game by His rules as they did in the New Testament times.
- K. Just obey the gospel and He will add you to His church.

From a sermon by G.K. Wallace