

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The gospel of the kingdom, which includes the gospel of grace (Acts 20:24), brings people not only into God's salvation but also into the kingdom of the heavens. The gospel of grace emphasizes forgiveness of sin, God's redemption, and eternal life, whereas the gospel of the kingdom emphasizes **the heavenly ruling of God and the authority of the Lord**. This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole earth for a testimony to all the nations before the end of this age.

The New Testament reveals that the Triune God has been incarnated in order to be sown into His chosen people and then to develop within them into a kingdom. Many think that the kingdom of God is a physical utopia- a heavenly paradise that we will go to, or a place that will come to us. However, the Bible reveals that the kingdom of God is actually God Himself. God is life, having the nature, ability, and shape of the divine

life, which forms the realm of God's ruling. Those who live in the kingdom of God have God as their life; God lives in them, through them, and out of them, and thus they express God.

As the embodiment of the Triune God, the Lord Jesus Himself is the kingdom of God. As revealed in Mark 4:26-29, Christ came as the Sower to sow Himself as the seed of life in His word into men's hearts so that He might grow and live in them and be expressed from within them. Thus the way in which one enters the kingdom is not by good works; rather, it is by **regeneration** (being born anew). When Christ, as the seed of life, comes into a person, he is regenerated. By regeneration, he is born into the kingdom. By regeneration, he is transferred out of the authority of darkness into the kingdom of God. "Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Then, after Christ sows Himself into His believers, He grows, spreads, and develops within them until there is a full harvest- the manifestation of the kingdom. This is for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose and also for the believers' blessing and

enjoyment. Thus, we enter the kingdom not by learning or by keeping and outward regulations. It is by an inward rebirth, which we receive through repentance, confession, and believing into the Lord Jesus.

Day by day, to be in the kingdom of God, experientially, is to be always under the ruling of Christ. In our daily walk with the Lord, there still may be some things which are not under His ruling. We need the Lord to cast out these things. One may be saved for many years, but still may not be in the kingdom practically. One may be moral, good, gentle, even religious, and still not be under the ruling of the Lord's life. We may still be rebellious.

We must humble ourselves and empty ourselves so that our entire being is available for Christ to grow in us. We must deal with the condition of our heart to make our heart the good earth for the full growth of Christ in us. Day by day and morning and evening, we must keep our heart open to the Lord by repenting and confessing all our sins to Him; this is the way to deal with our heart to make it the good earth for the growth of Christ as the seed of life.

Matthew 7:21

Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will ¹enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Note 1 - To enter into the kingdom of the heavens, we need to do two things: call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father. To call on the Lord suffices for us to be saved ([Rom. 10:13](#)), but to enter into the kingdom of the heavens, we also need to do the will of the heavenly Father. Hence, not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter into the kingdom of the heavens; but those who call on the Lord and do the will of the heavenly Father will enter in.

Since entering into the kingdom of the heavens requires doing the will of the heavenly Father, it is clearly different from entering into the kingdom of God through regeneration ([John 3:3, 5](#)). The latter entrance is gained through being born of the divine life; the former, through the living of that life.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I repent for the kingdom of the heavens, I ask You right now for Your mercy and grace that I might be one not only born anew with Your divine life, but also one who daily lives in Your divine life; may Your kingdom be manifested on earth and end this age. Come Lord Jesus, Amen.

Christians on Campus

You and your friends are invited to a gospel dinner at 6:00 PM February 24, 2007
3850 Mount Vernon Ave. (Rec Hall)
Riverside CA 92507

The Gospel of the Kingdom (1)

The kingdom of God is the Lord Jesus sown as a seed into the believers and developing into a realm over which God can rule in the divine life to establish His authority and glory (expression) on earth.