

“Thy Kingdom Come”
Lesson 7 - The purpose of the kingdom
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Introduction: What is a kingdom for?

- A. An earthly kingdom shows forth the purpose and the wisdom of its king.
 - 1. This is one reason why God did not wish for Israel to have an earthly king!
 - 2. They would tend to give their king the glory and trust in him.
- B. God’s glory has always been a “must” for God’s people.
 - 1. Why did God destroy Nadab and Abihu? (**Lev 10:3**)
 - 2. In Haggai’s day the people forgot this to their own distress. (**Hag 1:8**)
 - 3. The OT prophecies indicated that the kingdom of Christ would be for “the glory of God.” (**Isa 60:21-22, 18; 61:3**)
 - 4. New Testament writers affirm this. (**Eph 1:5-6, 11-12; Rev 1:5-6**)
 - a. When our king does His pleasure He receives glory.
 - b. There is no great purpose in life than to know that we glorified God.

I. The purpose of the kingdom is determined by the king’s “pleasure.”

- A. Jesus set the example for us in yielding the “pleasure” of the father. (**Jn 8:29**)
 - 1. The greatest test of this occurred in the garden. (**Mt 26:36-39**)
 - 2. This is why God said in prophecy that “the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.” (**Isa 53:10**)
 - 3. Do we think this way?
 - B. There is no greater happiness than to know you are walking in the "pleasure" of God. (**1 Jn 5:3**)
 - 1. We do not have to determine the way ourselves! (**2 Thess 1:11-12**)
- "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it." -- Flannery O' Connor
- 2. Those who find God's commands and God's worship "boring" or "traditional" do not know His pleasure. Who is worship for? (**Mal 1:9-10**)
- "The great act of faith is when man decides that he is not God." -- O. W. Holmes, Jr.
- C. God's "pleasure" is found in His people. (**Psa 149:4-5**)
 - 1. This knowledge should cause us to "sing aloud" on our beds!
 - 2. When we know His pleasure, worship flows from the heart. Praise the Lord!
 - D. God's "pleasure" has provided rich gifts for us.
 - 1. We should have no fear because of the gift of the kingdom. (**Lk 12:32**)
 - 2. Do you live a life without fear and in praise of our great God?

II. How is God glorified in us?

- A. Whenever the power of God is displayed. (**Lk 13:17**)
- B. In everything He has done for us and through us! (**2 Thess 1:11-12**)
 - 1. In all of this we have a choice. Who will get the glory, God or man?
 - 2. When we rely on our wisdom, who gets the glory?
- C. The act of conversion glorifies God. (**Gal 1:3-5; 2 Thess 3:1-2**)
 - 1. In order for our hearts to be melted we must first see the glory of God. (**2 Cor 4:4-6**)

2. How can we take away from the glory of God in our attempts at evangelism?
3. What is the end result when we “preach ourselves?”
- D. The baptism of Christ glorifies God. (**Rom 6:4**)
- E. When God supplies our needs. (**Phil 4:19-20**)
 1. In order for God to supply our needs what must we do? (**James 4:1-3**)
 2. Do you see your need for God? Do you often give Him praise for what He has personally done in your life? Are you really in the kingdom?
 3. Our God takes great pleasure in providing for us. Will we let Him?
- F. When we pray to God for all that we need. (**Jn 14:13-14**)
 1. Do you realize that God works through you to show His glory to others when He answers your prayer?
 2. God does not want us to arrogantly speak for Him but rather humbly praise Him in everything we do.
- G. When we “do all in the name of the Lord.” (**1 Pt 4:11**)
 1. Those who submit to the king will find a uniform practice. (**1 Cor 4:17; 7:17**)
 2. When we change what God wants out of fear of being “traditional” we have left that which glorifies God.
 3. We must not let past practices determine what we do. Our goal is “every good work.” (**Heb 13:20-21**)
- H. When we return good for evil. (**1 Pt 2:12,18-23; 4:16**)
 1. This is one of the most difficult test that shows either the power of God in you or the common spirit that is in the world.
 2. Other hearts can be opened when they see this power!
- I. When we work together in peace. (**Rom 15:7**)
 1. Again this is something the spirit of the world cannot obtain.
 2. What is the key for obtaining unity? (**Jn 17:21-23**)
- J. When we live a life faithful to the Lord. (**2 Tim 4:18; Jude 24-25**)
 1. True faithfulness can only come from the power of God.
 2. Do you realize what God is presently doing to keep you faithful to Him? What is your reaction to this?
- III. Things that men glory in that do not glorify God.**
 - A. This is the focus of worldly religion. (**Col 2:18-23**)
 1. It is not easy to see the difference unless we “hold fast to the head.” (**Col 2:19**)
 2. Worldly religions will have “paradigm shifts” in order to meet the “felt-needs” of the current culture. They will be popular but God is not in it.
 3. These groups will give great emphasis to glorifying men.
 - B. Worldly wisdom. (**1 Cor 1:18-25**)
 1. Why have churches changes their positions on homosexuality and women preachers?
 2. What is the focus of the citizen of the kingdom to any question?
 - C. A show of numbers and money. (**Mt 7:13-14**)
- Conclusion: What is the purpose of your life?
 - A. Men will rarely praise you for following God.

B. Are you looking forward to an eternity of praise? (**Rom 8:17; 2 Thess 1:10-11**)

Questions for Lesson 6

The purpose of the kingdom

1. How did god explain the reason for the death of Nadab and Abihu to their father Aaron? (**Lev 10:3**) Explain what this meant.
2. What is the purpose of the kingdom according to OT prophecies? (**Isa 60:21-22; 61:3**)
3. How did Jesus show the “pleasure” of the Father?
4. What does God find “pleasure” in? (**Psa 149:4-5; Lk 12:32**)
5. Why does the power of God cause men to glorify Him? (**Lk 13:17**)
6. What must men see before they can be converted to Christ? (**2 Cor 4:4-6**)
7. How does our prayers to God glorify Him? (**Jn 14:13-14; Phil 4:19-20**)
8. Why does the peace in the kingdom of God glorify Him? (**Rom 15:7**)
9. What things are exalted in worldly religion?
10. What will eternity with God be like according to **2 Thess 1:10-11**?

I SHALL HAVE HONOR TO MY NAME

Jeffery Kingry

A wife may complain that she feels unloved and her husband replies, "But wife, why would you say that? Am I a poor provider? Have I failed to do what you ask me?" She is expressing a need unfilled that is not physical, but spiritual. People are made in the image of God. God is a spirit, and it is in that way that you and I are in His image. When a man and a woman marry they *"leave father and mother, cleave together, and become one flesh."* (**Matt 19:5**). Cleaving together is not becoming one flesh. Cleaving together is not setting up an independent household. Cleaving together means a union of emotion, heart, spirit, goals, aspirations, judgment, vision, need. The word is used of our relationship with God. *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit"* (**1 Cor 6:17**). The same word is used to describe our preference for God's favor. *"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"* (**Rom 12:9**).

What does it mean when I contend for God as a Person and not merely as religion, doctrine, or ceremony? It does NOT mean that service, doctrine, or ritual are unnecessary or optional. That would be like arguing that true love did not require remembering your spouse's birthday or gift preferences, or excused carelessness in coming home on time, or excluded sharing meals together. These understandings and celebrations are not only necessary, they are vital to a loving relationship. However, by themselves they can never be enough.

God is a Person, and demands to be known and honored as a worthy person. *"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect? Says the Lord of hosts to you"* (**Mal 1:6**). God knows the difference between playing church and loving it's Head.

God complained to Israel, "If you knew me, or loved me, or honored me, I would know it. Don't turn wide eyes of innocence to me and ask, "Why are you so offended, Lord? We do what you require! We make the sacrifices. We observe the feast days!"

God replies, Is that so? Then *"...why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the Lord of hosts. "But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the Lord of hosts.*" (**Mal 1:8**).

Does God NEED us to remember the first day of the week, and keep the ceremony of weekly communion? Is there some inherent benefit to singing and making melody in our hearts? Is our understanding and teaching on truths He gave us what draws us close to God's side? No more, no less than knowing the truth drew the Jews near to God.

"Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am God, your God. I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, And your burnt offerings are continually before Me. I shall take no young bull out of your house, Nor male goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all it contains. Shall I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of male goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High; And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me." (**Psa 50:10-ff**).

God is a Person and demands to be treated as One.