

KINGDOM OF GOD'S HEAVEN

(PART ONE)

There is not a better study for putting Biblical subjects where they belong. The **KINGDOM OF GOD** explains the **Who, When, Where, Why** and the **How** of what God has done and will do, through His Son, Jesus.

THE WHO: While, the terms, Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven, refer to the same rule of God, it is to be emphasized that this Kingdom is to be given to man. But, no one "enters" nor "sees" God's Kingdom, except by Jesus, the God Man.

Adam lost his authority, but Jesus overpowered the god of this world in every way. The result turned man around; from death into Eternal Life. In defeating Satan's power of death, hell and the grave, we know that Jesus lives.

John gives us the witness **"that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son," 1st Jn 5:11.** He also writes, **"...the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us" (1st Jn 1:2).**

In **1st John 2:25**, John says, **"This is the promise which He Himself made to us: ETERNAL LIFE."**

Although, hindered with carnality, we understand that the life we have in Christ may be actualized; that is, lived out now by honoring His word and confessing our need of His life to control us.

We have a life in Christ that has a present tense reality, with a daily living experience. The life of Christ should not only be seen with a futuristic sense.

However, most saved folks see the life of Christ as coming in the resurrection. With such a view, they fail to walk in the light; either, through ignorance or false teaching. Yet, the Bible is clear about this for every man. As long as he is on the earth, man has the promise to walk in the light. When one does, he honors God's declarative will.

In reading John's testimony, we must see this life with a present reality in mind, according to his words in **1 John 2:24**, **"...let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."**

For me, it becomes a question of **AUTHORITY**. It's all about who are we going to follow. And, it makes Biblical sense to me, as well; for there are a "quadrillion" verses about service, obedience and judgment.

These verses align, perfectly with, the **THREE DESTINY APPROACH** within the **God's Kingdom**, at the **Second Coming**. While, everyone sees nations that will be ruled over by the **Bride of Christ**, the church, most people refuse to have any other understanding but **"saved and lost."** To them, although they read the passages, it doesn't add up.

Sometimes, we need to ask, "Why did God save us?" Certainly, it wasn't so that we could do anything we want. Yet, few continue in **"that which we have heard,"** failing to come to a knowledge of the truth.

In his writing of the **"Life is in the Son"** (1st Jn 5:11), John says that we have the responsibility to live within the authority of Jesus - to obey! And, Jesus taught that every saved person must be Scripturally baptized into a New Testament Church (His body-Mt 28). Once buried, Paul said we are to raise up and walk anew; that every member of the church must be submitted unto their Head, Jesus (Ro 6).

Without question, until a saved person is submitted to the local New Testament Church, he cannot be submitted to Its Head.

During His time on earth, Jesus alone had Spiritual authority. No one but Jesus controlled the weather and healed diseases, announcing that, **"If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you,"** Mt 12:28.

Even today, the Father's Spiritual authority still remains only in the Son. Once ascended, Jesus took that Spiritual authority to heaven. Now, we are told, **"Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession,"** Heb 4:14.

The Bible does record that Spiritual authority was manifested during times of the Apostles. However, the gifts died with the Apostles and we are to trust the Word of God; that **"Perfect Law of Liberty"** (James 2:25). Indeed, we are to "abide in it," James says, in order to be blessed.

There is Spiritual Authority on earth, today; but, it's the same authority as Acts, Chapter Two; on the day of Pentecost. **"God has sent forth the Spirit of His dear Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"** (Gal 4:6).

Since Pentecost, the church continues to function with authority of the Holy Spirit; fulfilling the promise of what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, **"I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven..."**

Sure, it would be wonderful if we had the power of an Apostle; say, like Paul. Speaking languages without prior knowledge and healing people, could only enhance our service to Christ. But, it ain't that way, anymore; even if a great number says it is. Gifts that remains are: **"Faith, Hope and Love,"** 1st Cor. 13:13.

What has happened, in the work of Christ, continues to happen. It's the "buying back" and "redeeming" of mankind; which, was possible only after Satan was disarmed and a stronger One took away the authoritative keys.

Now, with a "Greater" One ruling, we have been taken out of the world's control. The Bible declares, **"For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"** Colossians 1:13.

When we remember that salvation came to man only after the Law was repaired and, then removed, we must stay true to Scripture and include every saved person to be transferred into the power of God's kingdom. Ask yourself, "Where else can they be, when we speak declaratively?" If a person is saved, he becomes under Christ and His authority.

A Judgment Day is coming for all transferees - those under the Headship of Christ. The Apostle Paul says, **"So then each one of us shall give an account to**

God," Romans 14:12. And, concerning the Kingdom of God, Paul gives us an interesting parallel of Scripture, here. "For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace in the joy of the Holy Spirit," verse 17- (How many demand that we abstain from meat?).

Thus, it matters what teaching we follow. And, just as important, it matters who's teaching us. I'm just a sinner, saved by grace but, I have learned that the Bible must harmonize, from beginning to end. If we believe discerning the Bible is important, then we have to acknowledge the church of Jesus. She has always preached the same message since Pentecost.

Think with me here! The subject of the Kingdom of God's Heaven has over 150 New Testament passages in the Bible. The subject is so huge (now, and when Jesus comes) that every person must study it to its fullest. In God's Kingdom, we will see that Jesus; not only has always been in control, but He has manifested Himself to His people, the Church, since Her beginning.

Yes, today's Church people are smaller in number; but, you've got to watch out for those large groups, anyway. It's no different now than when Jesus spoke to the crowds. After the physical food, most turn and walk away; while, His disciples continue to eat and drink of the Lord.

Turn back around, friend! I want you to hear Jesus one more time. "**Fear not, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the KINGDOM," Luke 12:32**. Notice, He did not propose to make the "little flock" a kingdom. The church has knowledge and authority of the Kingdom but, She is not the kingdom. We pray for It to come (Mt 6:10).