

Kingdom Church

Jesus taught His disciples to pray; Matt 6¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We can deduce from this that there is a place which we know is God's abode where things are vastly different than here on earth.

No tears.

No sickness.

No suffering.

Immersed in love.

These are but some of the aspects of heaven, there is much, much more.

And Jesus says on earth as it is in heaven?

Pie in the sky you might say, I will reply it is because you don't know "Our Father who art in heaven"

Here are some guys who will miss heaven.

Luke 14¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 22 "Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

This is a contemporary picture of the response of people to the Kingdom of God.

Some so occupied with their work, career, families, investments,

This is not as if these people are violently opposed to God. In fact they seem open and will take some notice of God in their own time if the cost is not too high.

FIRST SLIDE, "OUR LIVES" – THE THINGS THAT KEEP THE AVERAGE MAN AND WOMAN OCCUPIED..

Then on top of all this we become born again.

SECOND SLIDE – THE COMPETITION OF THE CHURCH WITH LIFE.

The **Kingdom of God is not some socio-political government, geographic location.** Jesus clearly teaches that the Kingdom of God comes when individuals are within the Kingdom serving the King.

*Luke 17²⁰ Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, 21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the **kingdom of God is within you.**"*

In fact **what we have done is largely isolate ourselves from the world** and, develop systems and programs in the church to **make the church strong** (INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH) which are in fact in competition with the rest of life.

Few people see the church as a place of equipping, empowering to do ministry for Christ. The pastor is the paid servant of the church it is his job to visit the sick, console the lonely, preach good sermons. Church is a fragmented piece of the whole.

LAST SLIDE WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES AS FAR A THE CHURCH

Eph 4 ¹¹ *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,* ¹² *to **prepare God's people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up* ¹³ *until we **all reach unity** in the faith and in the **knowledge of the Son of God** and **become mature**, attaining to the **whole measure of the fullness of Christ**.*

Who is this, for a few isolated people? No the Lord wants all who are outside in His church.

It is not about running a great cell. Or about the role you play in the church it is all about how we live life.

God's kingdom is about Him and His people.

Establish the Kingdom and make disciples.

LAST SLIDE WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES INCLUDE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Matt 28 ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.* ¹⁹ *Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*** ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matt 5 ¹³ *"**You are the salt of the earth**. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.* ¹⁵

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ ***In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.***