



The King and His Kingdom

Hebrews 12:1-6; 25-29

- As believers in Christ, we are in between two countries. We are citizens of a country here on earth. God has placed us here for a reason and a specific time. You were created with value and purpose. We are also citizens of a heavenly country.
- If you have every left our country before and spent time somewhere else, you know it can be an interesting experience. It is possible to feel displaced or disconnected until you are back home.
 - o When I spend a semester studying in Paris while in college, I found myself wanting some of the comforts of home. A nice cheeseburger or someone that spoke English. We were there during the 4th of July. We had heard there were

fireworks at the American embassy. Before iPhones so we mapped out where the embassy was – found it – and waited for a few hours. We were sad to find out there were no fireworks.

- There are a lot of differences between the world we live in and the world to come. In Heaven, there is no sin, death, disease, imperfections. We will be in the presence of God, and it will be for an eternity. Here – there is the very real presence of sin and death. It is temporary – we only have a limited time. Our bodies are limited.
- But these two worlds are not mutually exclusive of one another. Jesus taught the disciples to pray that the Father's will would be done on earth as it is in Heaven. While we wait and anticipate the fulfillment of entering Heaven's eternal kingdom – we can experience the presence of God here and now.
 - o The earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord. When we speak of the kingdom that is to come – we have to remember that Jesus is already king right now. Everyone experiences the common grace of God. We can also experience the special grace of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Main Point: As believers, we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom.

- This world is not perfect, but I want to sum up our purpose as Christians here on this earth. To apply the righteous principles of God's kingdom as much as possible here on earth.
- Some may argue that this world is so fallen that we just forget about making any difference and just wait patiently for the Lord. I would argue that the Lord desires to redeem this world, and we should look at every possibly avenue to influence this world with the right principles of God's Word.

I. The people of His kingdom

- a. **VERSE 1** – Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.
 - i. This is a current reality. Not simply one that only awaits us in Heaven. We see the church in the local assembly and in the church universal.
 - ii. This is an obvious reality. We are surrounded by those who have gone before us and those who are faithful today.
 - iii. This is a testament to the truth of the Gospel. Every witness will testify of something. The more witnesses you have that testify of an event or circumstance, the more reliable we can take the testimony. We can rest completely in the faithfulness of God. There are countless others who have testified of the same thing in their lives.
- b. Martin Luther – The church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people who hold to Christ.
- c. John Stott – The Church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought; it is not an accident of history.
- d. We are ambassadors of Christ according to 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does that make the church? *The church is an outpost of the kingdom of God.* The church is an embassy in this world, representing and advocating for Kingdom principles.
- e. Jesus is King, and we are His servants. We can't misunderstand this. We didn't elect Jesus as the leader. He is creator and sustainer of the universe. He is not a president or prime minister. He is a benevolent and gracious...king. We are here to serve Him.

II. The work of His kingdom

- a. What is the work that is to be done for His kingdom? This work is to be done both personally and corporately.
- i. Personally – we are called individually to share the Gospel with others. To personally live according to the teachings of God’s Word. After all, salvation starts with a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ. We must repent and accept the Gospel for ourselves. No one else can do it for us.
 - ii. Corporately – we are to advocate for Kingdom principles in every sphere of life. The Great Commission was given to the church as a whole –
Matthew 28 – Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded of you.
 1. This is not possible from a personal perspective. Not one single person could accomplish this. Not one local assembly of believers could accomplish this. This requires the entire church – all of us being led by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Lots of talk today about Christian Nationalism – does the corporate work of the church lead us to establish Christian Nations here on earth. Here’s what history teaches us – even if you have Christian leaders of a nation who establish a state religion, you will still have people in that nation who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- c. However, it should be a part of the work of the church to advocate for Christian ideals to be implemented in our government. We should advocate for the Christian worldview to be implemented by our leaders. Secularism has sold many

people a lie in saying that there can be this area of life in society that is religiously neutral.

d. How do we implement Kingdom principles in our lives?

- i. Lay aside every weight – we are forgiven and free from sin. The ways of the world will weigh us down and keep us from where God wants us to be.
- ii. Run with endurance – it is a marathon not a sprint. We are to commit and grow over time to God’s plan through knowing God’s Word.
- iii. Look to Jesus – He is our ultimate example and the One who is at work in our life right now.
- iv. Be prepared for difficulty – Whatever we face does not compare to what Christ faced on our behalf. Some difficulty will be for our benefit and spiritual growth.

III. The result of His kingdom

- a. The result of God’s work in this world and in eternity is a kingdom which cannot be shaken.
- b. He is refining and purifying the things of this world. Removing the things that can be shaken.
- c. Revelation 21 is a clear indication of what is ultimately to come in the eternal kingdom. A new heaven and a new earth.
- d. How do we respond to this truth – with grace – which will help us serve the Lord more faithfully and trust in God more fully.