

The Unshakable Kingdom

Hebrews 12:28

Two words occur in the New Testament so frequently that they largely characterize it, and almost dominate it. The first word is *basileia*, translated “kingdom”. This word as a religious term occurs one hundred forty times. The second word is *ecclesia*, translated “church.” This word is used one hundred eleven times. Kingdom and Church: the Bible does not use these words as synonyms.

1. The kingdom is the word Christ used; the church is the word the Apostles used.
2. The kingdom is divine; the church is human.
3. The kingdom is God's end; the church is God's means.

The kingdom of God was the central message of Christ during His ministry. “Jesus went out preaching the gospel of the kingdom” (Matt. 4:23). Jesus used the phrase “*kingdom of God*” over one hundred times in His ministry. “*I must give the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, for that is what I was sent to do*” (Luke 4:43). He also made this His prayer, “Our Father ... Thy kingdom come.”

I. The Kingdom Misunderstood

- A. The Jews misunderstood the kingdom ... “They deemed it to be an outward, territorial, Hebrew kingdom.” From the Magi, (“Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”) to the mockers, (“This is the King of the Jews?”) to the Pharisees and the Disciples, they all wanted a King for the Jews.
- B. Christians misunderstand the kingdom ... The State Church (Roman Catholic) and Chiliasts of the first three centuries who looked for a worldly coming of Christ; to the Anglican Church which makes the King the head of the church, to Baptists and others who make churches the kingdom.

II. The Kingdom Manifested

“Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, “Look, here it is!” or, “There it is!” For behold, **the kingdom of God is within you**’” (Lk 17:20-21). Ask yourself the question: “Who is more important to me than Christ?” This is relationship central. Ask yourself the question: “What’s more important than the King’s desires?” This is real significance. Ask yourself: “What is beyond the scope of my King’s control?” This is security in life.

III. The Kingdom Mentality

Will we have Jesus as our King? This is the question that every kingdom follower must ask himself. When we begin to focus on Jesus being our King and seeing the kingdom bigger than our church, amazing things happen. Emmanuel Enid needs kingdom people, not church people. Let’s determine:

- A. We will not take ownership of anything in the church, but do what is best for the kingdom.
- B. We will not strive for a position of honor in the church, but serve others in the kingdom.
- C. We will rejoice when churches are in revival and do well, and hurt when they do not.
- D. We will never sacrifice kingdom ministry for the sake of church or institutional tradition.
- E. We will always be asking the question, “What is best for the kingdom of God on earth?”