

Message Four

Entering into the Kingdom of the Heavens (2)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 3:8; 5:3, 10, 20; 7:21; 11:12.

II. The conditions for entering the kingdom of the heavens

- A. Repenting and bearing fruit worthy of repentance—Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 3:8.
- B. Being poor in spirit—5:3.
- C. Being persecuted for the sake of righteousness—5:10.
- D. Having surpassing righteousness—5:20.
- E. Doing the will of God—7:21.
- F. Living in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens—chaps. 5-7.
- G. Taking the kingdom by violence—11:12.
- H. Denying the self, taking up the cross, and losing the soul-life to follow the Lord—16:24-27; 10:37-39.
- I. Being humbled willingly—18:3-4.
- J. Leaving all to follow the Lord—19:28-29.
- K. Enduring sufferings and tribulations—20:21, 23; Acts. 14:22; 2Thes. 1:5; Rev. 1:9.
- L. Being ready and watchful—Matt. 25:10, 13.
- M. Being faithful and prudent—24:45; 25:21, 23; Luke 19:17.
- N. Not looking behind at the world—Luke 9:62.
- O. Endeavoring to run the race—1Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:13-14.
- P. Exercising self-control in all things and buffeting the body—1Cor. 9:25-27.
- Q. Doing the work of gold, silver, and precious stones—1Cor. 3:10, 12, 14.
- R. Living in resurrection—1Cor. 15:50, 52; Rev. 20:4, 6.
- S. Putting to death the lusts of the flesh—Gal. 5:19, 21, 24; 1Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5.
- T. Enduring—2Tim. 2:12; Rev. 1:9; Matt. 10:22.
- U. Fighting the good fight, finishing the course, and keeping the faith—2Tim. 4:7-8.
- V. Loving the Lord's appearing—2Tim. 4:8.
- W. Believing and being diligent to enter—Heb. 3:19; 4:11.
- X. Loving God—James 2:5.
- Y. Having a bountiful life—2Pet. 1:5-8, 11; Rom. 14:17.
- Z. Overcoming—Rev. 2:7, 10-11, 17, 26-27; 3:5, 11-12, 21.

Message Four

Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 3:2 And saying, Repent, for **the kingdom of the heavens** has drawn near.

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for **the kingdom of the heavens** has drawn near.

Matt. 3:8 Produce then fruit worthy of your repentance.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is **the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is **the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means **enter into the kingdom of the heavens**.

Matt. 7:21 Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into **the kingdom of the heavens**, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt. 11:12 But from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of the heavens is taken by violence, and violent men seize it.

II.

Matt. 16:24-27. 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. **26** For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life? **27** For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

Matt. 10:37-39. 37 He who loves father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter above Me is not worthy of Me; **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who finds his soul-life shall lose it, and he who loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

Matt. 18:3-4. 3 And said, Truly I say to you, Unless you turn and become like little children, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens. **4** He therefore who will humble himself like this little child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt. 19:28-29. 28 And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you that you who have followed Me, in the restoration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for My name's sake shall receive a hundred times as much and shall inherit eternal life.

Matt. 20:21 And He said to her, What do you want? She said to Him, Say that these two sons of mine will sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your kingdom.

Matt. 20:23 He said to them, My cup you shall indeed drink, but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but *it is for* those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.

Acts 14:22 Establishing the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith and *saying* that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God.

2Thes. 1:5 A plain indication of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be accounted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which also you suffer;

Rev. 1:9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Matt. 25:10 And as they were going away to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast. And the door was shut.

Matt. 25:13 Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Matt. 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

Matt. 25:21 & 23 His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, Well *done*, good slave. Because you have become faithful in the least, have authority over ten cities.

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, No one who puts his hand on the plow and looks behind is fit for the kingdom of God.

1Cor. 9:24-27. 24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold. **25** And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible. **26** I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air; **27** But I buffet my body and make *it* my slave, lest perhaps having preached to others, I myself may become disapproved.

Phil. 3:13-14. 13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, **14** I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called *me* upward.

1Cor. 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*.

1Cor. 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

1Cor. 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built upon *the foundation* remains, he will receive a reward;

1Cor. 15:50 Now this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

1Cor. 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and *of those* who had not worshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Gal. 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal. 5:21 Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

1Cor. 6:9-10. 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be led astray; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor effeminate nor homosexuals **10** Nor thieves nor the covetous, not drunkards, not revilers, not the rapacious will inherit the kingdom of God.

Eph. 5:5 For this you realize, knowing that every fornicator or unclean person or greedy person (who is an idolater) has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

2Tim. 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with *Him*; if we deny *Him*, He also will deny us;

Matt. 10:22 And you will be hated by all because of My name. But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved.

2Tim. 4:7-8. 7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

Heb. 3:19 And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.

Heb. 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers: Did not God choose the poor in the world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He promised to those who love Him?

1Pet. 1:5-8. 5 Who are being guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time; **6** In which *time* you exult, though for a little while at present, if it must be, you have been made sorrowful by various trials, **7** So that the proving of your faith, much more precious than of gold which perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **8** Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing *Him* at present, yet believing, you exult with joy *that is* unspeakable and full of glory,

1Pet. 1:11 Searching into what *time* or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ in them was making clear, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glories after these.

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 2:10-11. 10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. **11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev. 2:26-27. 26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; **27** And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;

Rev. 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Rev. 3:11-12. 11 I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown. **12** He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev. 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.