

Message Twelve

The Kingdom of God

Scriptures reading: Rom. 14:17; Matt. 6:9-10, 13.

- I. Romans 14:17 proves that the church today is the kingdom of God.**
 - A. The kingdom of God is the realm in which He exercises His authority and acts according to His will so that He may express His glory for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—Matt. 6:9-10, 13.
 - B. The context of this verse concerns the church life as the expression of the Body of Christ; this is our basis for saying that the kingdom of God in verse 17 is the church.

- II. The New Testament first presents the kingdom and thereafter presents the church—Matt. 4:23; 16:18-19.**
 - A. The kingdom of God and its activities, is the realm of the divine life for the divine life to move, rule, and govern so that life may accomplish its purpose.
 - B. The gospel, as revealed in Romans, brings in the divine life with its realm, the sphere of the ruling of life, produces the church.
 - C. Because the kingdom is the reality of the church, apart from the kingdom life, we cannot live the church life—5:3; 16:18-19; Rev. 1:4-6, 9.
 - D. Without the kingdom as its reality, the church would be empty.
 - E. The kingdom life issues in the church life; therefore, as we live corporately in the kingdom life, we spontaneously live the church life.
 - F. A believer who does not live the kingdom life cannot be built into structure of the church—Eph. 2:22.
 - G. When the kingdom is able to assert the divine authority over a company of believers, those believers can be built up into the church—Col. 2:19; 4:15-16.
 - H. We need a clear vision of the fact that the genuine church is the kingdom of God in this age and that today, as Romans reveals, the believers should live the kingdom life in the church.

1. Each time the Lord Jesus spoke of the church, He mentioned it in relation to the kingdom; this indicates that the kingdom and the church are intimately related—Matt. 16:18-19; 18:17-18.
 2. Other portions of the New Testament underscore this relationship—1Cor. 4:20, 17; Eph. 2:19; Col. 4:11; Rom. 1:6, 9.
- I. Although the church in the present age is the kingdom, we are in the kingdom in reality only when we live, walk, and have our being in the spirit, not in the natural man—Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16, 25.
- J. The church, which was brought in by the kingdom, brings in the kingdom—Matt. 6:10, 12:22-29; Rev. 11:15; 12:10.
1. The church's responsibility is to perpetuate Christ's victory, and the church's work is to being in the kingdom of God.
 2. All the work of the church should be governed by the principle of the kingdom of God.
 3. The church should be exercised, especially in prayer, to bring in heaven's will down to earth and to carry this will out on earth—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:50.
- K. Ultimately, in the New Jerusalem, the kingdom and the church will become one entity—Rev. 21:2.
1. The kingdom produces the church, the church brings in the kingdom, and the consummate issue of the kingdom and the church is the New Jerusalem, for it combines in itself the kingdom and the church—21:2, 9-10; Eph. 5:23-32.
 2. The New Jerusalem is the bride, which is the church; it is also a city, which speaks of God's government, and in the center of this city is the throne of God—22:1, 3-5.

III. In the church life as the kingdom of God today, we may live in the kingdom of the Son of God's love—Col. 1:13.

- A. God has delivered us out of Satan's authority of darkness and brought us into His marvelous light, and in so doing He transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love—1Pet. 2:9.

1. Since the Son of God is the embodiment and expression of the divine life, the kingdom of the Son is a realm of life—1John 5:11-12.
 2. To be transferred into the kingdom of the Son of the Father's love is to be transferred into the Son, who is life to us—Col. 3:4.
 3. When we live by the Son as our life in resurrection, we are living in His kingdom, enjoying Him in the Father's love—John 6:57.
- B. That we have been transferred into the kingdom of the Son of God's love indicates that this kingdom, this realm of life, is in love, not in fear.
1. The kingdom in which we find ourselves today is a realm full of life, light, and love—1John 1:1-2, 5, 7; 4:8, 16.
 2. The Son as the object of the divine love becomes to us the embodiment of the divine life in the divine love with the authority of resurrection; this is the kingdom of the Son of God's love, a realm where we are ruled in love with life—Matt. 17:5.
 3. Here, under the heavenly ruling and restriction, we have genuine freedom in love, with life, and under light—7:13-14.
 4. Here, in this kingdom we enjoy Christ and have the church life—Col. 1:12, 4:15-16.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

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

Matt. 6:9-10. **9** You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified;
10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Matt. 6:13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matt. 4:23 And Jesus went about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Matt. 16:18-19. **18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

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

Rev. 1:6-9. **4** John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, **5** And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood **6** And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Col. 4:15-16. **15** Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house. **16** And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.

Matt. 18:17-18. **17** And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church; and if he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector. **18** Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

1Cor. 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not in speech but in power.

1Cor. 4:17 Because of this I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.

Eph. 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Col. 4:11 And Jesus, who is called Justus; these alone of the circumcision are *my* fellow workers for the kingdom of God, ones who have become a consolation to me.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Gal. 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Matt. 6:22-29. 22 Then there was brought to Him one possessed by a demon, blind and dumb, and He healed him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw. **23** And all the crowds were amazed and said, Is this not the Son of David? **24** But the Pharisees, hearing *this*, said, This man does not cast out the demons except by Beelzebul, ruler of the demons. **25** But knowing their thoughts, He said to them, Every kingdom divided against itself becomes desolate, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. **26** And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? **27** And if I, by Beelzebul, cast out the demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **28** But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **29** Or how can anyone enter into the house of the strong man and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will thoroughly plunder his house.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the *kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:9-10. 9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. **10** And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Eph. 5:23-32. 23 For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the Body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also *let* the wives *be subject* to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her **26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing *her* by the washing of the water in the word, **27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish. **28** In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church, **30** Because we are members of His Body. **31** For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. **32** This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Rev. 22:3-5. 3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him; **4** And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night

will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1John 5:11-12. **11** And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

1John 1:1-2. **1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life **2** (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

1John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

Matt. 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

Matt. 7:13-14. **13** Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it. **14** Because narrow is the gate and constricted is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;