

The Gospel of The Kingdom

By

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Gospel means good news and the good news of the kingdom of God. God Rules it and in it if everything He has prepare for us and it is everything, we desire. Also, God desires us to be there with him and does all He can to help us get there.

Jesus went around preaching The Gospel of The Kingdom and doing good works (Mat 4:23,24) so that these two activities are central to any ministry that states they follow Jesus. If they are not preaching, teaching and demonstrating the The Kingdom of God they are not doing the ministry of Jesus.

Central to Salvation is the Lordship of Jesus in the life of His follower and the resultant state of being a citizen of The Kingdom of God in an intimate relationship with The Father and Jesus.

Any follower of Jesus not representing and expressing The Kingdom of God or at least trying too are not really following Jesus and may not be saved.

Any follower not in an intimate relationship with The Father and Jesus do not have salvation (eternal life) according to Jesus (see John 17:3).

Central to deliverance from the effects of the kingdom of darkness on a follower of Jesus is the Lordship of Jesus and the placing all things you are steward of (including yourself) under His authority (His Kingdom) and control for Him to use and protect. There is no complete deliverance from the kingdom of darkness if Jesus is not Lord of every area of your life.

Central to all this is the relationship we have with The Father in His Kingdom which Jesus rules at the moment. He is our spiritual Father and we should relate to Him as our father and He is our ruler in h heaven so we obey Him as we would a king. E

The Love we have for The Father is central to our citizenship in heaven and it is because of this that we obey and serve The Father and not out of fear of punishment. God is perfect Love and it is this Love that enfolds us and cherishes us.

What is the Gospel of The Kingdom?

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

The word 'Gospel' literally means "good news" so the Gospel of the Kingdom is literally the good news of The Kingdom. In other words, something that is really worth being joyful over and excited about. In the context of the Kingdom of God it means our acceptance by God as a citizen of His Kingdom resulting from our faith in who Jesus is, accepting what He has taught and done, what He has promised and includes all the benefits and responsibilities that result from this relationship.

If we do not preach the Kingdom of God, we do not preach what Jesus preached (Matt 4:23).

The Gospel of The Kingdom involves:

Salvation (deliverance) from the authority of the kingdom of darkness,

Being taken from Satan's kingdom to that of God

Healing and deliverance from the effects the kingdom of darkness on us,

A personal relationship with The Holy Spirit as well as His personal guidance,

A personal relationship with Jesus and The Father as a citizen of His Kingdom.

Eternal life resulting from the relationship with Jesus and The Father (John 17:3).

The privilege of serving Jesus as a citizen of His Kingdom.

If we preach only the Gospel of Salvation then we do not preach all of the above. We preach about the entrance to The Kingdom only and not all that Jesus preached. It is preaching teaching and demonstrating The Kingdom of God as Jesus did which marks people as belonging to The Kingdom of God and which attracted people to the Christian faith of the early church.

It is demonstrating the power and authority of The Kingdom of God over the works of Satan (sickness, demonic oppression, spiritual death etc.) that draws people to Jesus and His Kingdom and demonstrates how superior it is to Satan's kingdom.

What replaces the things of the Kingdom in most churches these days

Healing (the body), is replaced by Medicine,

Deliverance (healing the wounded spirit and the soul), is replaced by counselling and psychiatry/psychology,

Jesus can still use these for His purposes such as showing His Glory through miraculous healings when doctors cannot heal, through them recording the illness so the healing is documented. He can also use the illness itself to draw you close to Him.

The relationship of salvation through Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, is replaced by inviting Jesus into your heart or other ritual without a commitment to have an intimate, personal relationship with Him (so He can be Saviour). When Jesus is your Lord, He is your King and you a part of His Kingdom and so are 'saved'.

The Kingdom, is replaced by the denomination/church/parachurch organisation,

The guidance of The Spirit, is replaced by the guidance of denominational rules, reason (sight), theology, church policy and worldly ways of doing things.

Teaching about what the Bible says is replaced by discussing what words say so that the overall principle to apply is often lost and the meaning of words becomes more important than their application. As a result, words or verses are left out of modern bibles changing doctrine because reasoned scholarship says these words are not part of The Bible.

The Body of Christ consisting of all believers united by The Holy Spirit is replaced by denominations which by their very establishment divide the Body of Christ. Jesus does not recognise denominations and recognises only The Bod of believers.

Scriptural accuracy is replaced by reasoned scholarship so The Holy Spirit led commentary is replaced by the reasoned theology of men. Theology is theoretical and not practical and as theology has been given prominence the practice of Christianity has declined. As a result, society has become ungodly as well as morally corrupt

The Gospel of The Kingdom deals with the whole person

It deals with the whole person (Body, Mind, Soul, Spirit etc.), and how these various parts interact. These parts all affect each other and the Gospel of The Kingdom is designed to heal all spiritual parts of the person so that one part is not left damaged to affect the other parts that are healed.

There may also be physical healing depending on how and Jesus desires to heal you

Satan realizes that the Gospel of The Kingdom of God restores the whole person so his followers are taught the importance of physical and psychological healing by their demon guides to hide the healing that The Kingdom can do.

You must deal with the total person: body, soul and mind - the physical, spiritual and mental, not just the spiritual side of a person because these different parts of a person are so interrelated that all parts suffer if one part suffers.

(Paul describes the body of Christ in similar terms and describes it in a similar to how our body works (1 Cor 12:26). That all suffer is one part of the Christian body is not in place.)

The ultimate deception of Satan in regard to the Gospel is to have people concentrate on the Gospel of Salvation so that only the spiritual consequences of sin are dealt with. Satan hides the Gospel of The Kingdom, which deals with the total freedom of the person from the ravages of sin and the effects of the kingdom of Satan on them.

No wonder the organised church is physically sick, mentally ill and declining. It is because they only focus on salvation and the spiritual effects of The Cross. Few have anything to offer that deals with the spiritual and physical ravages of Satan on people such as disease and mental problems.

Satan has blinded the church to the demonic cause behind these things so that reason only is used to deal with these things and not the Authority of Jesus that He has given us to deal with the demons causing these things (Eph. 6:12).

The Gospel of The Kingdom and its total approach means we need to look after our mind and body as well as our soul and spirit as they relate to our total being: mind, body, soul, spirit, personality, heart.

The ministry of Jesus

At the very beginning of His public ministry, Jesus read the following from the book of Isaiah (Ch 61:1-2) in Luke 4:17-19

“And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

He spent three years teaching The Kingdom of God, demonstrating it, preaching it and training people to follow in His steps. The Gospel of the Kingdom was so much a part of His teaching that He did not need to tell His disciples to proclaim it when He ascended into heaven. Jesus gave what is called The Great Commission, and in this, the Gospel of the Kingdom is not mentioned. It was not needed to be mentioned as it was so fundamental to all He preached and is the basis for the Great Commission.

The object of the Great Commission was to go out and reconcile people to Jesus, his Kingdom, His peace and His wholeness. To evangelise just to save souls misses the whole point of this commission

and salvation.

The Sermon on the mount and other sermons and parables were all given to explain the requirements of a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

It is to be noted that Paul did not just teach the Gospel of salvation but the Gospel of The Kingdom. This fact was the last thing mentioned about Paul and was mentioned about him just before he was martyred so God used it to summarise His life (Acts 28:31). In fact, they are the closing comments of Acts as if to summarise the book of Acts.

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

The Great Commission

In summary, Jesus said to His apostles just before He ascended into heaven:

Mat 28: 18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Mark 16:16-19 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Luke 24: 46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

As you can see each of the writers gives a different twist to the Commission, which if summarized would look like this:

“All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in My name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

This summarises the work of The Kingdom of God.

Does Mark 16:15-18 apply only to the apostles?

Luke 9: 1-6 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.

10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

The short answer is No! These were said to all not just the apostles (Luke 24:33)

Luk 24:33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

Luk 24:34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

And at Pentecost all were anointed to do these things

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Before you can minister you have to be authorised and the disciples were authorised by Jesus at the beginning of their ministry. He had trained them and now was sending them out to put into practice what they had been taught. They returned from this as apostles

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All were anointed to preach The Gospel.

What Gospel were they to preach? The Gospel of The Kingdom.

How were they to evidence this? By healing the sick and casting out demons. This is the only way the reality of who Jesus is and that The Kingdom exists, can be shown.

What were they to take? Very Little because they had been taught Mat 6:33, that God would provide all they needed as they ministered and now God was to show this to them. They could not preach what they did not live.

Mar 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mar 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

Mar 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

So, when Jesus spoke in Mark 16:15-18 He was not authorizing the apostles as they had already been authorised. He was authorizing His followers.

Luk 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luk 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luk 9:10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

Note that they went out as disciples but returned apostles (v10 above). The mark of an apostle is that they preach, teach and demonstrate The Kingdom.

The proof that you belong to Jesus and His kingdom is that you do the above or at least try to.

The going into all nations

Acts 8: 3-4 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

The church had been told to go to all nations but stayed in Jerusalem. God organised it so that they had to obey Him or die and so were scattered abroad.

Most Christians do not go into their neighbourhood and proclaim the Gospel let alone other nations. God will have to scatter them through persecution so that they go into their neighbourhood, and witness to The Kingdom even if only by the example of their lives.

The Importance of People to Jesus

People are the most important thing to Jesus along with their maturing and development, which He nurtures as they let Him.

Many people are lost to Him and His Kingdom and are under the control of His enemy with the subsequent result of their ending up in hell, the prison of his enemy. This is because many of the churches seems to be a social club ignoring the lost and the last orders Jesus gave to His followers.

These last orders are a result of His 'Law of Love' as anyone who loves Jesus will love these people as He does and will desire to set them free as He does and so will willingly carry out His final commission, not from fear or obedience but from Love for Him and His lost people.

The chief law in heaven is this law of love and it is on earth that we are to learn and express it in our life.

How callous is the Christian who has been saved from hell and ignores those around them who are

going to hell?

How can they call themselves Christian when they ignore the purpose Jesus came for (1 Tim 1:15) and do not show His Love to all those around them who are going to hell?

The Power of The Kingdom

Paul said that the Kingdom did not come in empty words but in demonstration of its Power!

What did he mean?

As The Kingdom is demonstrated by its defeating Satan and his plans The authority (power) of The Kingdom is shown to all, both in heaven, hell and earth.

It is also shown as we show His Love towards others and minister to them as we obey the command to love others in the way that God Loves us (Jn 13:34-35).

Love is the attitude in which God shows His power! Unless we Love as He does, we will not show His power and any ministry not based on God's Love will fail. God is Love and all He does is in Love so we must also do as He does and do all in love or it is not of Him but of his enemy the devil.

This is why seeking wisdom or power for its own sake will never succeed as it is done in our own strength and not that of God! It is the Power (authority) of God working in us and through us as His Love works through us that demonstrates the Kingdom of God in all its fullness and allows God to mature us to greater things!

It is this demonstration of The Kingdom that attracts people to Jesus and it! So, while the church does not demonstrate the Love of Jesus and the Authority of Jesus it can never successfully complete the 'Great Commission'

1 Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Jesus was an evangelist!

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom and demonstrated it in power and might. His message was:

(Mat 3:2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

(Mar 1:15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

How are we to repent?

(Act 2:38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(Act 3:19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

(Act 8:22) Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

(Act 26:20) But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to

God, and do works meet for repentance.

The church does not usually preach this. It preaches The Cross and the need to invite Jesus into your heart and that you need to ask forgiveness of your sins even though they are forgiven before you even sin because of Calvary.

Jesus preached that salvation was a continuing relationship with God not a once only invitation of Him into your heart. This inviting Jesus into your heart is wrong as The Holy Spirit's presence is in our spirit and not Jesus and we do not have to invite The Holy Spirit in as He is a gift from God and cannot initially be received any other way except through salvation. He also preached we are citizens of The Kingdom of God as a result of salvation and not of local church or denominational membership or Christian body.

Evangelism must preach the remission of sins by God and repentance from (rejection of) what the world offers by us and that because of what Jesus did we can now enter into a relationship with Jesus and The Father that makes us citizens of The Kingdom of God. This results in eternal life. Our life must show this has happened by a change in direction in our focus from the things of the world to the things of God as well as reflecting the Character of God in all we do.

In Summary we are to preach

The Kingdom of heaven has come to you and

Because of what Jesus did at Calvary the barriers between God and them were removed through redemption (our sins being remitted and not just forgiven) and that you can now enter into a personal relationship with the Father and Jesus with The Holy Spirit to guide us.

We must repent, in other words, turn our back on what Satan offers us from his kingdom of darkness and turn towards that which Jesus offers us from His Kingdom. We are also to be baptized to identify ourselves with the Kingdom of God.

Our lives should then be one of obedience to Jesus, showing forth the Kingdom of God in all the things we do and by the way we do them.

If Jesus is not Lord of our life, we can lose our salvation (Rev 3:5) and we will not demonstrate the Kingdom as we should.

What is the purpose of Evangelism?

1 Jn 1: 3-4 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

The purpose of evangelism is to reconcile people to God so they can have fellowship with God and His citizens now on earth and later in heaven and that their Joy will be complete in this life and in the next life.

Why has the world not been reached yet?

Most churches preach the Gospel of Salvation only and not the Gospel of The Kingdom, so that the delegated power and authority of Christ are not demonstrated and seen on earth. Instead of The Power and Authority of Jesus we see a confessing of faith intellectually and following a set of rules (and not being led by The Holy Spirit) or the learning of theology, rather than seeing a demonstration of The Kingdom life. This results in the casual observer of Christianity seeing it as being no different

from any other cult or religion.

Where the Gospel of The Kingdom is preached the churches are growing. Where only the Gospel of Salvation alone is preached, they are dying.

It is the power of Jesus working through the life of a Christian that sets them apart from other religions and cults and attracts people to Jesus in such a way that they will consider and accept what He taught. The authority of The Kingdom is not visible in the lives of most Christians and so people do not consider Christianity as being any different to other religions. This makes it very easy to drop in and out of Christianity, as happens so often these days. It makes it easier to join other faiths such as Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses and Hindus etc., in common worship services as they do not see that these 'fellowships' pollute The Kingdom. They cannot be a part of The Kingdom of God and fellowship with other faiths that do not believe in The Kingdom.

True fellowship only occurs when the Kingdom is being promoted in some way by the group fellowshipping.

It also makes it easier for Satan to build his one world religious system of all belief systems including liberal Christians in preparation for Anti-Christ and his government. Then Satan will have a government system and associated religious system to go with it.

It is the responsibility of every mature Christian in whom Jesus is Lord and Saviour to preach this Gospel of the Kingdom and to show the delegated authority of Jesus over Satan through the demonstration of the authority and power of The Kingdom of God. If you are not doing this, then it is your responsibility to learn how to do this. You should still be able to give every person a reason for your faith and hope in Jesus and His Kingdom. If you cannot do this then perhaps you do not understand what salvation is and may not be saved.

The Things of God

Satan knows these things better than we do and incorporates into the lives of those that follow him things similar to those of The Kingdom of God that will benefit his followers. This is the reason the new age can be appealing as they doing things similar to what God wants His people to do but which most are not doing because they are ignorant of them or do not really believe in Jesus and His power to do them. Care of the earth, care of our body and mind, helping others to achieve spiritual fulfilment, maturity and spiritual purpose in Jesus. These the Christians should be doing but most are not.

Satan has taken ground from the church because they are not doing these things and because most Christians have tolerated laws of the land that promote Satan's kingdom while not doing anything about God's values being promote through the same laws of the land.

When the Christians pursue the things of God, caring for all God has given them as good stewards of these and demonstrate the Kingdom with 'signs and wonders' then people will be attracted away from the new age and similar life styles to Jesus and all He offers them.

Modern Evangelism

A lot of the evangelistic principles were developed when evangelising was developed in a time when people knew who Jesus was and knew their Bibles and which may not be appropriate for today in a society which Jesus is no longer relevant to or even known about and the Bible is no longer a family book. I read with interest that Paul preached differently to the Gentiles who did not know of the

coming Messiah and of God than when he preached to the Jews who did and that what convinced people to follow Jesus was the miracles that the apostles and disciples did and not just words (1 Cor 2:4).

Perhaps this is the only way to reach people in an age that is as godless as in the time of Paul. Having said that, I add that anyone who hears the spirit of God as they preach or evangelize will meet the needs of the listeners. But then, how many talk to the spirit and listen to him as they preach.

Evangelism and The New Age

In Ephesus, Paul is facing the followers of the goddess Artemis. She was said to have all the attributes of Jesus so her followers could not see any reason for following Jesus. After all, why leave Artemis for a God who appears to be the same and was not yet proven to be as good as Artemis. So, preaching accomplished little in regard to the followers of Artemis.

There were three main differences between Jesus and Artemis:

Artemis did not love as Jesus did

She had not risen from the dead

Jesus had authority over the demons that promoted her.

It is only as Paul demonstrated The Kingdom and its Authority over Artemis and her works with signs and wonders that the followers of Artemis then followed Jesus. They would also have been told to repent of their former lifestyle and follow the lifestyle Jesus taught.

Words will not reach new age people and other similar cults as they have what spiritually satisfies them and often have a parallel or similar gods to that of Christians. It is only as the authority of The Kingdom is demonstrated through signs and wonders and the authority of The Name of Jesus over their demons is demonstrated will these people listen to the words of evangelists. Evangelism that does not demonstrate this authority will not reach them and will achieve little these days.

Paul summarized it in 1 Cor 2:4-5 as follows:

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Only when the church evangelize from the basis of Kingdom Authority will it achieve what Jesus asks it to do in this area.

Should a Christian forcibly stop sinful practices?

When the laws of a land allow any or all of:

Abortion

Homosexuality

Drug Use or cultivation

Same sex marriages

Adoption of children by same sex couples

or any other practice The Bible condemn, are you to forcibly stop them?

God does not go against their free will so why can you?

If Christians had been active these things would not have passed as laws and allowed in society so to now condemn the people involved in them is hypocrisy. You fight the demons behind these things and demonstrate to the people affected by them:

Love

Service

Compassion

Signs and Wonders

Deliverance for those that follow Jesus

So, you demonstrate Jesus and not your opinions of things (even though they may be Biblically based).

These people are hurt and abused and troubled by demons and need love and acceptance and not condemnation of them. Do not accept what they may do but accept them. Then they will feel secure in that love and will listen to you about Jesus

To look down on them or condemn them is to sin with pride and self-righteousness which makes you as bad as them in the eyes of God!

You would reach these people? Show Jesus to them and His authority over their illnesses and hurts and then let them come to Him and not you.

God's Business

The Business of God on earth is restoring people to a relationship with Him and by this saving people from hell and maintaining them once they are saved. By this He expands His kingdom. He uses people to teach those who are prepared to hear the things of God how to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and then to develop a salvation relationship with Him.

He uses mature Christians who have been prepared by The Holy Spirit and who are willing to teach others about The Kingdom as well as demonstrate it as they teach and preach it. He then has these followers trained to go out and do His work so they will reach and train others for Him. It is the pattern Jesus used and which Paul also used (2 Tim 2:2).

Too many times a scatter gun approach is used for evangelism and much effort is wasted. Rather than asking The Holy Spirit where to go and look for those He has prepared, people just go out and evangelise in the hope of finding someone willing to listen.

God is your partner in ministry and you have to listen to Him to be effective. City wide crusades may be wonderful things but if the churches are not individually going out and seeking the lost, they are a hypocrisy as are week long revival meetings if the church does not normally evangelise. Evangelism should be a result of our Love for Jesus and His people going to hell and not a chore to satisfy a church or denomination and should be a natural part of our life, and not an exercise or duty.

The Bible does not require you to evangelise. God does! And he has stated this requirement in His Bible.

It is much more fun to have a big crusade than to go door knocking on the streets after waiting on The Holy Spirit and asking Him when and where to go. It seems much more effective to plan a door knock to every house on a suburb than to pray and ask who is ready to be reached. Our prayer should be;

“Who or Where do you want Me to witness to you Lord?”

By this ‘scatter-gun’ approach Satan Wastes the efforts of many in futile work and reduces the effectiveness of evangelistic outreach.

If you evangelize without God's guidance and direction you are putting on a good show but you are not doing God's business as He will tell you when He wants you to go, where He wants you to go and who to go to. It may look good to scatter out and preach to everyone whether they are ready or not to receive the gospel but it is not God's business. God's business is done as we listen to His Spirit tell us what He wants done and where He wants it done.

Happy will be the servant who is found doing what God wants and not what is traditional or looks good and has the appearances of being fruitful.

An overview of how it all fits together

Salvation is by faith in Jesus through God's grace unto righteousness (a correct relationship with Him) that results in sanctification (being set apart for His purposes) and worship but requires holiness and Lordship. Now to translate this churchspeak which means nothing to the average person ‘on the street’.

In other words:

All are redeemed (our defilement of sin and punishment for our wrongs was removed by the death of

Jesus at Calvary) as Christ died once for all not just those that would accept Him as Lord and Saviour. Salvation, however, is a result of faith in whom Jesus is, what He has done for us, and has promised for to do for us and results in our being transferred from Satan's Kingdom to God's Kingdom and also being in a position to have a relationship with God. This is a result of God's Grace (Love) as we did not know we needed salvation and redemption and were not able to do this anyway. As a result of this salvation, we are set apart by God as His (Sanctified) and given The Holy Spirit to mark us as being His property. We worship Him out of Love and Gratitude and separate ourselves from the things of Satan's kingdom to those of Jesus (holiness). Jesus must be Lord (our King) if we belong to His kingdom otherwise, He cannot be our Saviour.

What is the Christian Life?

An overview of how it all fits together

The Christian Life is the expression of our relationship with God as a citizen of His Kingdom. Everything else, including our service as a citizen of His Kingdom is a result of this. Our God-given Christian life is the expression of our love and obedience based on love for and thanksgiving to God for what He has done for us and is not out of compulsion or fear of God's punishment. It is a life of voluntary obedience and loving service to God as the Christian realises that God's nature is Love and that all God does for a Christian is a result of this love and is best for the Christian and they are grateful to God for what He has done for them to allow them to be citizens of His Kingdom.

I cannot offer God anything except my Will for Him to use as He Wills and it is as I obey His desires for me that I bring Him Glory and Honour.

Evangelism is a form of worship that brings Glory and Honour to Jesus and not an exercise to boost church numbers. The sooner the church changes its attitude to evangelism the sooner it will be restored as a force in the world. This will happen in the revivals of the last days that are coming soon.

The Wonder of it all

God did not need to make us - He is complete in Himself.

The wonder of it all is that knowing what was going to happen He still made us! He did not make us for His sake, but for ours so we could relate to Him and experience His Love and Grace.

The Christian life is a continual expression of God's Love and Grace to us and through us to others and this is how it should be approached. To approach it any other way is to doubt God's Love and thus His salvation, Grace and Mercy.

Roles of God in The Kingdom

All the members of the Trinity are equally God but have divided up responsibilities for ease of our understanding their roles and being able to relate to them.

The Father is like a father to us and provides all we need. Everything that is good or worthwhile is from The Father

The Lord Jesus rules The Kingdom of God and protects all its citizens in it. He expands and defends it using His Citizens (us). It is this control and protection that limits what Satan can do to us.

The Holy Spirit empowers and guides us. He fills our spirit and marks us as belonging to The Kingdom of God. His presence replaces demons in our soul and He covers us as a cloud when we are

baptised into Him showing our authority and role in The Kingdom of God.

Angels are spirits ministering to the citizens of The Kingdom of God.

We are members of The Kingdom whose sole purpose is to serve its King Jesus, as guided by The Holy Spirit and by doing this service bring Him Glory and Honour and in this, we ourselves receive reflected Glory and Honour.

A Synopsis

We are born into a kingdom (Satan's). We do not notice anything unusual and live comfortably with the laws of that kingdom. One day, suddenly all that changes. We see things as they really are and decide to follow Jesus as our King. We realise that we really are citizens of another kingdom, living in enemy territory to which our true King has right to rule but has not yet returned to claim and whose laws are often different to the laws of The Kingdom we live in.

Once we follow this new King (Jesus) we find part of our work is to tell others about the rightful king and his laws so that people will desire to be citizens of His Kingdom and will be following His laws when He returns to take back from Satan the territory we are living in. Even more importantly, we will all face Him and give an account of what we did for Him while in this enemy kingdom.

Thus is the synopsis of the Christian life.

You are born and live in The Kingdom of darkness until you realise who the true King is and that you will have to face Him one day and give an account of how you lived, even though His enemy rules the land. Then you swear allegiance to Him and live as He requires you to in this kingdom whose laws are controlled by the enemy.

Your work is to extend the knowledge of the true King preparing people to face Him either when he returns or after they die when they will be judged for the way they lived. You live in a kingdom where everything opposes what you are doing and whose current king tries to destroy you while you are doing your King's Will. Your king is greater and has taken the enemy captive so the enemy can only do to you what you allow the enemy to do.

The True Kingdoms

Despite all the political divisions made by man there are really only two kingdoms: The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of His enemy, Satan (the devil). Before a person becomes a follower of Jesus they live under the principles of The Kingdom of Satan and have the attitudes and purposes of that kingdom. When they decide to follow Jesus, they do a 180 degree turn in their attitudes and purposes and turn to the purposes and attitudes of The Kingdom of The Father.

This new life style is called 'Holiness to God', the turning away from the things of The Kingdom of darkness you were in to the things of The Kingdom of God. This separating yourself from Satan's worldly system is also part of the 'fast' God asks you to do (Is 58:6).

The deliverance ministry helps you with this change as it removes the baggage of The Kingdom of darkness, but only so much of it as you want removed.

The Kingdom of God, at the moment, is where the influence of God is through the presence of The Holy Spirit working through a citizen of The Kingdom. This presence of The Holy Spirit in you means you need no special place to worship The King, as you are that special place. His presence also means you can be guided by the true King, if you want to, and do what he requires of you in His quest

to free people from the control of His enemy.

The Kingdom of God is really the whole universe. It is just that at the moment some parts are controlled by Satan and its presence in these areas is only on the citizens of The Kingdom.

What does it mean to be a citizen of a kingdom?

A Good Citizen knows he represents his king and acts accordingly. He knows he represents his king by the fact he is a part of The King's kingdom. He serves The King and waits upon him. He defends The King and The King's principles because in defending The Kingdom he is defending himself. He proclaims the benefits of being in The Kingdom because The King is so good to him. He warns those that reject The King but leaves the punishment of them to The King. He uses The King's guidelines for determining if someone has rebelled against The King.

He loves the good king because of the benefits The King gives to his people (which includes him). He hates the enemy who would try and destroy The Kingdom and will go to war with the enemy as often as is necessary to defend The Kingdom and his king. He removes those things from The Kingdom that would in any way mar The King's reign and kingdom. He does his work well knowing he will have to give account of it to The King for anything not done properly or which brings discredit to The Kingdom. This is not his motivation however, as he serves The King out of love and gratitude for what The King has done for him. He desires the relationship with his king above all things as he loves his king and knows this relationship will bring the maximum benefit to his King and he as well as his security and permanence in The Kingdom.

A good citizen of The Kingdom of God loves his King and delights in the relationship with Him and in doing His will. He is not afraid to give account to The King as he has been wholeheartedly faithful in all he has done (what The King requires of him). The King does not mind failure if it is done out of the proper attitude to Him and His Kingdom. In other words, the person wholeheartedly tried to do the Will of The King but failed. The desire of the citizen of The Kingdom is that all men know his King and the relationship they can have with Him as well as to destroy the works of his King's, enemy (the devil). Being a good citizen, he will be found doing the Master's work when the Master comes.

You may do all the right things to satisfy the church or the requirements of a denominations but still not be a good citizen of The Kingdom of God because you are not obeying The King, only what man says The King requires.

A good citizen delights in the relationship with his King for in it lies their happiness, health and future! How does one delight in the relationship with his King? By appreciating what The King has done for them, is doing for them and has promised to do for them as well as desiring to be closer to The King in their relationship so they know The King better and can express their love to The King in a deeper and more meaningful way.

A good citizen delights in his King because he loves Him and desires to be with Him as often as he can. He serves The King out of love and in this lies their purpose – to be good citizens of God's Kingdom, serving The King out of love and gratitude for what The King has done, is currently doing and promises to do for them in the future.

The citizen sells or gives up all he has to obtain The Kingdom it is of so great a value to him. It is the treasure hid in a field, the pearl of great price (value) worth all they have, to obtain.

They realise that they cannot take anything with them when they die and that The King has promised

to provide all they need when they leave the enemy's territory and go to His Kingdom. They also realise that their rewards in The Kingdom (heaven) are dependent on their correct use of the time and abilities The King has given them as well as the correct stewardship of The King possessions which they have been entrusted with here in the enemy's kingdom.

They do not hoard treasure on earth where it corrupts and is destroyed and cannot be taken with them to their home country (heaven) but use what they have been made steward of by The King wisely for the good of The Kingdom and have rewards in their home Kingdom instead.

Do you have these attitudes towards The Father and His Kingdom?

Status of The Citizen

The citizen has only the rights The King gives them and must stay within those limits or face punishment.

They must keep His laws, which means they must know and understand them

To rebel against His rule is death

They must do His will before their own regardless of time, place, inconvenience or difficulty.

They must believe The King has their best interest at heart or will only serve him grudgingly.

They must believe it is worth following Him

They must believe there is no one more worthy to follow

What does the citizen of The Kingdom do?

They worship The King

They serve The King

They represent The King

They fellowship with The King

They place the requirements of The King and The Kingdom (which is an extension of The King) above all other requirements and they desire The King above all other people. This is not hard for them to do because of the nature of The King being so beautiful and desirable that they want to be like Him and to spend time with Him.

They serve The King in various areas:

Representing Him as His ambassador

Teaching about Him to others

Guiding and helping people to join His Kingdom

Obtaining ground (people) from the enemy for The Kingdom

Defending The Kingdom and His Name.

They do not strive for greatness in The Kingdom as it is for The King alone to give. They study to be approved by their King then He promotes them. They realise that greatness in The Kingdom is not obtained by doing great things but being faithful in the daily things The King requires of them. Their

daily life is centred on The King's will for them and they consider how it relates to what they are doing as they go around their daily activities:

The husband at work and guiding the family

The wife as a mother and housekeeper, guiding the household

The children obedient and learning from parents and teacher

Those ministering, ministering out of love and not duty

The leaders having their household in order before leading other Christians

The employers treating their workers in Christian love

People paying their correct taxes and meeting other Biblical responsibilities

All spending time to listen to The King's Counsellor (The Holy Spirit) to hear The King's Will

All relying on their delegated authority, gifts and guidelines (Bible) from The King in their daily life as citizens

All serving each other in unity, desiring only to help each other obtain The Kingdom and to reach their potential as citizens of this Kingdom.

They realise that the salvation offered them is reflected in their role as a citizen of The Kingdom of God. The more they get to know the workings of The King in their life and of His Counsellor, the more they love them. The more they love them the more they want to serve them, spend time with them and learn of them.

The more we identify with The King and His Counsellor, the more people will see them in us and their Kingdom in our lifestyle.

Holiness is the voluntary state of being separated from The King's enemy and the influence of the enemy's territory in all its aspects.

Sanctification is the setting apart of us, by The King, for His purposes.

Righteousness is being in a correct relationship with The King.

Justification is the removal, by The King, of every spiritual impediment (sin and its defilement) that would stop us relating correctly with The King.

All this is done so we can enjoy our relationship with The King and His Counsellor and joyfully serve them as a result of this relationship.

If you have neither a joyful relationship with The King or serve Him Joyfully, take stock of yourself and see what is hindering you otherwise you will never really be able to serve God to your fullest ability as a citizen of His Kingdom.

The Bible says that we are solely responsible for two things:

The choice of The Kingdom we serve

The rewards we get in this Kingdom when we return home to its home base (Gal 6:7-8).

It is up to you alone. The choice is yours and you must make one! There are no fence sitters in The

Kingdom of Heaven but there are many in hell!

Kingdom Attitudes

Anyone that knowingly does not do God's will or His purposes cannot belong to The Kingdom of God and by default belong to The Kingdom of the enemy. Hence the danger of being a fence-sitting Christian who is content to let others do the work of God's Kingdom, or who do only do the work of denominations or whom do things from duty rather than love, usually to please men or gain promotion, self-esteem or self-worth from these activities.

It is difficult to be a fence sitter on earth as there is only one kingdom - that of Satan - so that there is no fence between the kingdoms to sit on.

It is all a matter of attitude.

You do not own things but have stewardship of them as they belong to God their creator so you should always consider what God wants done with them when you deal with the things you have been trusted with by Him.

You have not right to judge or condemn others, as The King is the only one who can do this.

You are required to love others as The King loves you and place their welfare first before your selfish pleasures. You are required to maintain those people God has entrusted you with (family e.g.) and not deprive them of their needs to meet the needs of others. You are also not to do for others what they should be doing for themselves. They could be punished by The King for not doing what you have done for them as well as lose rewards and you could also be acting outside your authority area or level and incur The King's displeasure.

Your plans are always subject to the will of the ruler (Jesus) so that He is consulted before you do anything that is not revealed in His rules and guidelines (The Bible) and even then, at times, He should be consulted to ensure you are still doing His Will. There are everyday activities that must be done and these usually do not require His approval however you must be ready and able to hear The King's voice when He speaks to you to do something out of the ordinary.

It is an attitude that seeks to know The King personally because of the love borne for Him as a result of what He has done for them and the intimate relationship they have with Him.

It is an attitude that does not consider the delights of the enemy's kingdom as their attention is solely on The King's requirements and the furtherance of His Kingdom and the delights of being in The King's presence.

The King's requirements are well known to the citizen as they study them so they will not unknowingly or knowingly disobey them.

It is summarised by Mat 6:33. In all you do:

Seek the intimacy of the relationship you have with Jesus

Seek the benefit of His Kingdom in all you do

As you obey Jesus in all you do you walk on the path, He has prepared for you from before the beginning of creation on which are all the good things God has for you to receive.

The sole purpose of the citizen is to please their King for in doing so He will show his true love for

his King and achieve the best that is possible for themselves. The citizen does not seek to please The King because of the rewards he receives but out of love for what The King has done for him.

Our King, of course, is Jesus, the Desire of the Ages.

In Conclusion

Can you lose your citizenship in heaven? Yes, through continued unrepented disobedience. Your name will be removed from the book of life (Rev 3:5).

Jesus said people who believed in Him would heal the sick and raise the dead. So, if you are not even trying to do these you are in disobedience to Him and risk losing your salvation unless you have a very good reason to give Him when you face Him and give account of your life.

You will not go to hell for wholeheartedly trying and not succeeding. you will go to hell for not trying in the first instance.

I talk a lot more about the responsibilities and attitudes of a citizen of The Kingdom of God in my book on The Kingdom of God found at <http://nevillesalvetti.com/PDF/KOG.pdf>