



## CHURCH ALIVE HOME BIBLE STUDY

### Lesson 6

## The Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom

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All scriptures and other features are from the New King James Version of the Bible.

**"Gospel" means "good news."** In the New Testament the "gospel" includes both the promise of salvation and its fulfillment by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ (*The Anointed One; the Promised Messiah - Word Wealth Mark 1:1*). The "good news" is that God's rule is present in power to forgive sin, heal sickness, break demonic power and release from oppression. It opens us up to life by the law of God and to be set free from the rule of Satan - where we can be blessed, protected and cared for! There is only one gospel message, and the Bible warns about receiving any other message. (*Galatians 1:6-9*)

For 400 years the Jews were expecting a Messiah, who would come and set up a great earthly kingdom and bring them out from under Roman rule. John the Baptist prepared men's hearts for the coming of the long-awaited Messiah by preaching, ***"Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."*** (Matt 3:2) When Jesus came, He preached and taught the ***Gospel of the Kingdom***. (Matt. 4:17) In Luke 16:16 Jesus said: ***The Law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the Kingdom of God has been preached and everyone is pressing into it.***

### **Life Application:**

We are to **PRESS INTO IT!** The word "press" indicates that being a follower of Jesus requires a committed perseverance, determination, active pursuit in our faith in Christ. Our journey does not end with baptism or accepting Christ. That is only the beginning. It is a continuous journey towards spiritual maturity and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises. (*See more at the end...*)

Jesus instructed His disciples concerning the Kingdom of God: Jesus taught – **Seek it! Pray for it! Preach it!**

Matt. 6:10 - ***"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."***

Matt. 6:33 - ***"In this manner pray, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"***

Matt.10:7 - ***"As you go, preach, saying, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'"***

**Acts 1:3** - After His resurrection Jesus appeared to them and spoke to them for 40 days concerning the kingdom of God. We need that spiritual passion of Jesus to preach the Gospel!

**WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?** The Gospels present the "Good news" of the Kingdom of God.

A **kingdom** means royal rule, sovereignty, kingship, dominion and power (Strong's Concordance). **The Kingdom of God is the realm of God's rule.** Kingdom of God denotes ownership – the source of the kingdom, from where it comes.

- Wherever God reigns over His subjects. God's rule is in and through Christ.
- It is the sphere in which at any given time His rule is acknowledged.
- In the Kingdom of God everything is subject to God's power, without question.

**Where there is a kingdom there is a king.** The central meaning of the Kingdom of God is my relationship with King Jesus! Often we resist His rulership! When Adam and Eve rebelled against God never relinquished His sovereignty, but, God declared His purposes to establish His Kingdom right through the Old Testament.

## WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM?

It is **not an earthly kingdom!** The Kingdom of God is **ETERNAL!** *"His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him."* (Daniel 7:27) *"It endures through out all generations."* (Psalm 145:13)

We have had a tendency to think of the kingdom of God in terms of the future. We limit God when we focus on the past and we limit God when we focus on the **future** – or on the “sweet bye and bye.” Our purpose on earth is not to die and go to heaven. **It’s about living!** God wants us to see that the *Kingdom of God* is in our present time. Jesus said, *“The Kingdom of heaven is **at hand.**” IT’S NOW!* Jesus is the King! Where the **King** is present the Kingdom of God has come.

Jesus wanted His disciples to see the Kingdom in their midst. Jesus’ disciples could not grasp the idea of “a suffering servant” as the Messiah. They did not understand that Jesus did not come to set up an earthly kingdom - **JESUS WAS PROCLAIMING A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM!**

Remember ...**GOD IS! GOD ALWAYS HAS BEEN! GOD ALWAYS WILL BE!** Isaiah 57:15 says that *“God inhabits eternity!”* **ETERNITY IS NOT TIME!** Eternity has no BEGINNING - NO END! When God created the heavens and the earth He created time. When Jesus came to earth He stepped out of eternity into time. Jesus proclaimed an ETERNAL kingdom – a SPIRITUAL kingdom! Jesus said in John 18:36 (while on trial), *“The Kingdom of God **is not of this world.** Otherwise My servants would fight.”*

In teaching His disciples, Jesus gave illustration after illustration concerning His Kingdom. They are called “**parables.**” Jesus used short, simple but powerful stories from familiar settings from everyday life to convey profound moral and spiritual truths to those who were open to faith and conceal meaning from those who refused to listen. (Strong’s concordance) In the parables Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God will meet with varying levels of success (NSFLB). He taught: *“The Kingdom of God is like...”* (Matthew 13 & 22)

- It takes root and flourishes when hearts are open and ready to receive the truth (*The Sower*).
- The wheat and tares (good and evil) grow together until the final harvest separation. (+ the Dragnet)
- It starts small but grows beyond what we could ever imagine. (*The Mustard Seed*)
- At present it is not fully manifest but is penetrating human society and transforming lives. (*The Leaven*)
- It is like a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price – a priceless kingdom that inspires wholehearted devotion to obtain it. It is worth any cost
- Entrance requires watchfulness and staying spiritually equipped. (*The Ten Virgins*)
- It is open to all who accept the invitation. Repentant sinners will enter but not pretenders. (*Wedding Feast*)
- It requires acting faithfully with what you have been entrusted with. (*The Talents*)

## GOD'S KINGDOM IS DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD'S...

God has always been after a Kingdom of kings and priests - a holy nation - people who were different from the world. (Ex.19:6 & 1 Peter 2:9) Jesus came to put **within** us a new spirit to make us members of His kingdom while here in the world. We are to be **IN** the world but **NOT OF IT!** But, while **in** the world, showing forth another spirit. The Kingdom of God contradicts the world's way of life. (Matthew Ch. 5-7) Jesus did not come to condemn the world (John 3:16,17) yet we find Jesus did rebuke the religious leaders in Matthew 23. They didn't want to enter the Kingdom of God. He called them "*blind guides.*" He criticizes their hypocrisy, legalism and self-centeredness. He told the disciples, "*Do practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach.*" And in Matthew 5:20 He teaches, "*... unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*" Religion is the greatest hindrance to Christianity

Romans 14:17 defines the Kingdom of God as "*not meat nor drink (dietary laws), but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.* It is not a carnal kingdom – not one in which we are ruled by our five senses. It's a spiritual kingdom - *righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost!*

The Luke 17:21 says "*The kingdom of God is within you.*" It is not visible – **It's a spiritual kingdom** **IT'S A LIFESTYLE! – IT'S ABOUT LIVING FOR HIM!** It's higher than any other kingdom (Daniel 14:14) It **will never be destroyed** – but will crush all other kingdoms. (Daniel 2:44) It is **unshakeable** (Matt. 7:24,25)

The Kingdom of God is not ruled by fear and oppression. (Luke 22:25,26) Rulers of the Kingdom of God will not lord it over others like kingdoms of the world, but instead, "*the the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. But I am among you as one who serves.*" **In the Kingdom of God true greatness is measured in terms of service.**

## HOW DO WE ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

1. In John 3:3 Jesus said, "*Unless one is born again, he cannot SEE the Kingdom of God.*" It's a Spiritual birth-receiving the life of God! **The only thing that can make me different is being born again into the kingdom of God!** THE ONLY ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS THE CROSS – - THE REGENERATING POWER OF THE CROSS. **WE HAVE TO COME BY WAY OF THE CROSS.** The only thing that can bring me into the Kingdom of God is **REDEMPTION**. **JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR THAT HE MIGHT BECOME OUR KING!**

**1 Corinthians.1:18-25** tells us that...to those who are being saved it is the power of God. **The CROSS OF CHRIST ALONE makes me holy** – not by any works I can do. **Colossians 3:13** tells us that the moment we receive Christ as Lord and Savior we were translated from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of His dear Son. It was instantaneous! We were taken from the realm of darkness into the realm of light.

2. In 3:5 Jesus continues to answer Nicodemus, "*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God.*" To **ENTER** requires more. Only by allowing the Spirit to flow through us will we fulfill what we are to BE in the Kingdom. (Acts1:8) God has already given us everything that pertains to life and godliness

(2 Peter 1:3). Jesus purchased it for us upon the cross. Jesus came that we might “*have life and have it more abundantly.*” (John 10:10) We have life **NOW** through the Person of Jesus Christ.

3. Mark 10:15 Jesus said – “*Assuredly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God, as a little child will by no means enter it.*” *Let the children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God.* We have to **come and accept** God’s provision rather than try and make our own. We must come to Jesus in the **humble dependence and trust of little children**. Eternal life cannot be earned (Matthew 19:16)

4. **We enter by BELIEVING:** Hebrews 4:3- 10 describes a type of rest that is to be enjoyed by Christians. “*We who have believed do enter that rest.*” V.10 “*For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.*” You can’t enter the Kingdom of God by works. We can take the teaching of Jesus and live them out only as we are totally surrendered to Him and controlled by the Holy Spirit. (Spirit-filled life Bible)

*Hebrews 3:19 & 4:2 is a warning to us...* The Israelites failed to enter God’s rest because they did not “*mix the word with faith... although the works were finished from the foundations of the world; they had an evil heart of unbelief.*” They did not trust God or heed His authority. They hardened their hearts and did not enter His rest.

5. **OBEDIENCE:** In Jesus’ Kingdom obedience is the only way to absolute freedom. Jesus never forces people to obey Him. WE OBEY BECAUSE WE LOVE and TRUST HIM! When we obey it is through a oneness in the Spirit. In Matt. 7:21 Jesus said: “*Not everyone who says to Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*”

**WHAT IS KINGDOM LIFESTYLE LIKE?** In Matthew 5-7 Jesus outlines the primary characteristics of people who are citizens of the Kingdom of God. – who receive the rule of the Kingdom He brings:

- 1.) **Poor in spirit** (those who recognize they are spiritually bankrupt without the Holy Spirit),
- 2) **Godly sorrow over sin**, 3) **Meekness** (humility), 4) **Hunger and thirst after righteousness**,
- 5) **Merciful**, 6) **Pure in heart**, 7) **peacemakers**, 8) **will persecuted** for righteousness sake.

For more teaching on the *Sermon on the Mount* sign up for Pastor John’s course: “The Life & Ministry of Jesus.”

The call to kingdom living includes the expectation that **the Holy Spirit works in us to develop kingly qualities of life, love and a holy character.** (John 15:1-17; Galatians 5:22)

## **Life Application:**

*Let’s look at Phil 3:14 again...* “*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*”

The “**goal**” is not merely a distant target. It’s about our daily Christian walk: growing in faith and understanding, reflecting Jesus in our lives. Every day we can make a commitment: whether through prayer, bible study, or showing love to those around us – always pressing forward. It’s a “*high calling of God*” it carries eternal significance. We are to live with intention, watching opportunities to embrace God’s

love and fulfill His purpose for our lives keeping our hearts and minds set on Christ, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) - focusing on what's ahead in God's purposes.

*And remember...* As members of the body of Christ, we share a collective purpose. Supporting one another helps to keep everyone accountable. Remember, it is part of a much greater story than our own - intertwined with God's plan and purposes, striving for that high calling. Let us press forward, sharing the love and hope of the Gospel with the world around us.

***The following are highlights from Pastor Jerry's blog on Wednesday... which clearly illustrates Philippians 3:14...***

On Tuesday, I attended a *Celebration of Life* for Travis L. Pelley at *Rock Church*. I happened to be a member of the *Rock Church* pastoral team and the Academic Dean of the *ASK Bible Training Centre* for over twenty years. I met Travis when he enrolled in Bible school. After he graduated in 1999 I observed his continued involvement at *Rock Church* in various ministries. Eventually Travis became part of the *Halifax Fire Department*, and his advancement indicated his love for the occupation. His dedication to the Lord continued over the years as was his loyalty and dedication for his family and friends: "*What great husband, father, friend and co-worker he was!*"

It is Tuesday, March 31, 2026 and I am sitting at Rock Church looking at the platform and remembering how many sermons I had spoken there, as well as how many Bible school classes I had participated in from Monday to Friday for eighteen years. Friends, I am close to eighty-eight years of age and the Lord has used me to pastor in three churches and I believe it was the solid foundation placed in the Kendrick family at Rock Church under the leadership of Pastors Ted and Paul Yuke that put our feet truly on the solid ground that the Lord wanted us to have.

Bev, and I were blessed to have an opportunity to talk to so many people that we had first met forty-nine years ago. Travis' dad told us how valuable the ASK Bible training days were to Travis over the years. What the Holy Spirit is prompting me to tell you is this...how comforting it is find out that our ministry efforts were not in vain but that what we had done, in obedience to the Lord, became solid anchors of guidance for other people who are also walking the walk. And so, we see that the passage of time can reveal to us that our faithfulness today can bear much fruit under the anointing of the Lord. As I review my attending this Tuesday service, I see more clearly how the Lord has used Bev and I these past forty-nine years and that we must always be on guard to say, "*Here and I Lord, use me!*" Together let's do all we can to know Jesus and to make Him known. So, keep seeking the Lord and believing for His precious promises! I encourage everyone today to realize what a friend we have in Jesus, and what a comfort it is to be a part of a worldwide family of a wonderful, merciful Savior.

***Let's Pray...***

Father, we acknowledge Your Lordship! Until the day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, let Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven through Jesus our Lord and Savior.

And for our families... ***Name them...*** Draw them by Your Spirit and cause them to come. In Your mercy, bring them in! Deliver them from the kingdom of darkness and bring them into the kingdom of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ.

Reign in us, I pray! Lord, empower us to share Your word with boldness and with the passion of Jesus. Let our actions reflect Your truth, to draw others into Your Kingdom. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit to do our part in the work You have called us to do. In Jesus Name!