

THOUGHTS ON THE ETERNAL KINGDOM **IS IT THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM?**

Recently a friend of mine posted a picture on Facebook of a group sharing The Gospel in an open-air meeting overseas. My thoughts went to what Jesus Christ said about The Gospel of The Kingdom will be preached to the whole world and then the end will come. My next thought was, "Is what is being preached The Gospel of The Kingdom?"

In what we call The Lord's Prayer, the first thing Jesus said we should pray for was that His Kingdom would come and His will would be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. It is clear from this that The Gospel of The Kingdom is more than getting saved from Hell and going to Heaven. It is about receiving The Eternal Life of God so we can do our part to bring God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.

The first thing John the Baptist and Jesus preached was "**repent** for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". In Matthew 10:7 Christ told His followers to preach the same thing. Jesus said that The Kingdom is not a place you go to, but something that lives within you when you receive His Eternal Life. The rich young ruler was a good man and a faithful church goer, but he knew from The Gospel of The Kingdom Jesus preached that something was missing. His question was, "what must I do to inherit Eternal Life?" Jesus made it clear in Luke 14:26, 27, and 33 that there are three things that must be surrendered to God in order to receive Eternal Life: relationships, goals and ambitions, and possessions. The Gospel of The Kingdom is a message that leads people to surrender these things to the Lordship of Christ.

Most people want to escape Hell and go to Heaven. Some are even willing to say that they believe Jesus died on the cross for them and say a prayer so they can get there. Saying a prayer won't get you to Heaven if there is no repentance or heart surrender. Only through repentance and heart surrender can you be birthed into God's Kingdom and receive His Eternal Life. There is no record in the Bible of early preachers of The Gospel leading someone in a prayer. Instead they spoke the truth of The Kingdom in such a way that people would ask them what they needed to do to be saved. Paul said there were two things he preached everywhere he

went, "repentance toward God and faith in The Lord Jesus Christ". Many today talk about faith in Jesus but fail to mention repentance or the need for Christ's Lordship. Paul preached these things because he understood that God's Kingdom is coming on Earth as it is in Heaven in the hearts of people. He knew that for this to happen there needed to be deep repentance and a turning away from all that offends God and is contrary to His Kingdom. Paul understood that being birthed into The Kingdom required falling in love with Jesus Christ, and that the person being birthed must surrender their heart and will to His Lordship.

There are many today inside and outside the church who have not heard The Gospel of The Kingdom. Many would *receive* The Kingdom if they heard *the message of* The Kingdom. This message is the world's only hope. It is the only message that will bring God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. When God's Kingdom fully comes, there will be peace on Earth and everyone's needs will be met. These things will not happen any other way.

Question: Is the message you are sharing about salvation The Gospel of The Kingdom?

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 24:14, and 6:10; Matthew 3:2, 4:17, and 10:7; John 3:16 and 17:3; Acts 2:38; Luke 17:21; Romans 10:8; Matthew 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 18:18 and 14:26,27,33; and Acts 2:37, 16:30 and 20:21

Henry & Rita

Please share this important message
with as many people as you can. We would love to help you
know more about making The Eternal kingdom your number one priority,
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