

“ADJ - Advancing the Kingdom Part 1” (10-2-22)

Series Introduction: The Kingdom - Its definition, value, essence, and ways to participate in & advance it!

Today: Definition & Value, how to Enter, and Participate

1) Kingdom - Definition & Value

- The Kingdom is of utmost importance

Acts 1:3 (ESV)

(Jesus) presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Note: The Kingdom mentioned well over 100 times in the Gospels alone!

- The Kingdom is of utmost value

Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV)

“the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of **great value**, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

- The Kingdom is incredibly unique - it is both present & future!

Defining the Kingdom . . .

Dallas Willard

“Our ‘kingdom’ is simply the range of our effect will” . . . “Now God’s one ‘kingdom’ or ‘rule,’ is the range of his effective will, where what he wants done is done.” . . .

Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

(6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Kingdom is present - it’s God’s rule being established in our midst . . .

Luke 17:20-21 (ESV)

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”

Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV)

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

2) Kingdom - It's essential to Enter in

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Romans 1:15-17 (ESV)

(15) So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Note: Paul is sharing the good news that's for all, that is rooted in faith (belief in action) in God!

Romans 1:18-20 (ESV)

(18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. (19) For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. (20) For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Note: The sin we all have in common - suppressing the truth by rejecting God as God!

Romans 1:21-22 (ESV)

(21) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Claiming to be wise, they became fools

Romans 1:28 (ESV)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 1:32 (ESV)

Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Note: All sin flows from this one sin / Our world is filled with other views & claims that will not work!

Mark 1:14b-15 (ESV)

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Note: Our hope is rooted in a complete change (repent) - change of heart, mind, aim, focus, direction!

John 3:3-6 (ESV)

(3) Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (4) Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (5) Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

3) Kingdom - How to participate now

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Dallas Willard

“By relying on His word and presence we are enabled to reintegrate the little realm that makes up our life into the infinite rule of God. And that is the eternal kind of life. Caught up in His active rule, our deeds become an element in God’s eternal history.”

The next several weeks - How to live in the Kingdom & How to share it . . .

Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV)

“the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of **great value**, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

Matthew 24:14 (ESV)

“And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Conclusion: The Kingdom is of great value & importance, the unique solution to the brokenness of this world. Because of Jesus it is now present and available - will we repent & participate in Kingdom life now?