

The church/Kingdom

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Introduction

1. Matthew 16:13-19
2. The church and the kingdom are used interchangeable in this passage.
3. The church is important for a number of reasons:
 - a. One it is bought with the precious blood of Christ. 1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 20:28
 - b. It is the bride of Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 22:17
 - c. Christ is the head of the church. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23
 - d. The church is the body of Christ. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23
4. The church is the “called out.” She is called out of the world, and out of sin to live as light in the world, and shield a rock and a fenced city and a place of refuge.
5. One must be in the church for us to use these beneficial factors in our life. 2 Timothy 2:10
6. Therefore if the church is important then the kingdom is of equal importance
7. This lesson is about the kingdom

II Discussion

1. The kingdom in prophecy Daniel 2:44
 - a. In the days of these kings, which kings are those
 - b. The interpretation of the dream verse 36
 - c. Thou art the head of fine gold verse 38, the beginning of the kingdoms mentioned. Babylon is the kingdom
 - d. Another kingdom verse 39, Meds and Persians Daniel 5:31- 6:1
 - e. A third kingdom verse 39 Grecian, Alexander the great
 - f. A fourth kingdom verse 40 verses 40-43 is a description of this kingdom, this is Rome.
 - g. Rome was the world power in the first century Luke 3:1; Acts 11:28
 - h. So if we find the kingdom being set up or established between Luke 3 and Acts 11 we find the fulfilment of this prophecy
2. The kingdom in preparation
 - a. John the Baptist preached that the kingdom was at hand Matthew 3:1-2
 - b. Jesus also taught that the kingdom of heaven was at hand
 - c. What would be the meaning of “at hand?” One translation has it is near another “has come near”
 - d. Yet notice Mark 9:1 Some of them that were there would see the kingdom come with power
 - e. Acts 1:9 when ye receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.” So when the power was given the Holy Ghost was given, the kingdom was established.
3. The kingdom in perfection
 - a. We can be translated into the kingdom of His dear Son Colossians 1:13
 - b. When John wrote, by inspiration, the book of Revelation, he was in the kingdom Revelation 1:9
 - c. When was the Holy Ghost given? Acts 2:4 so the power was given as well
 - d. Therefore the kingdom of Heaven was established

- e. How can anyone say that the kingdom has not be established
- f. How can anyone say that God missed the time and the occasion was not right for the kingdom to be established

III Conclusion

1. When the sermon was concluded and those three thousand people were baptized, they were added to the church, or the kingdom
2. Are you a part of the kingdom or the church?
3. You can be today

Sources: Word Study Greek – English New Testament; Matthew commentary by Coffman;
Personal Evangelism New Testament Holman Christian Standard Bible