

# Countryside Bible Church

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## Thy Kingdom Come

“Something to Think About” Series by Don ward

*Matthew 6:9-10*



*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

The subject of Jesus' gospel was the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God yet to come.

Luke 4:43

*And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.*

What is the gospel of the Kingdom of God? *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* Jesus summarized it in 11 words.

The message regarding the kingdom of God did not originate with Jesus, however, but came out of the mouths of the ancient prophets of Israel. Peter refers to it as “*the times of restitution*” which await the return of Jesus to earth.

Acts 3:19-21

*Whom (Jesus) the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Both John the Baptist and Jesus preached this same gospel.

Matthew 3:1-2

*In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Matthew 4:17

*From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

(Matthew may have used "heaven" in place of "God" because Jews felt the repetitious use of the word "God" was disrespectful.)

Peters repeats this same theme, "repent" in order to be ready for "thy kingdom come". Consider this part of his sermon on the day of Pentecost following Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

Acts 3:19-21

*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; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

The gospel of the kingdom of God was so much a part of the teaching of Jesus, the apostles and the early church that the shorter term "gospel" was commonly understood to mean the gospel of the kingdom of God. To that was added the collateral elements pertaining to Jesus' atoning work as expressed below.

Acts 8:12

*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Notice how, in quoting Jesus, Matthew uses "gospel of the kingdom" but Mark uses the shorter term "gospel".

Matthew 24:14

*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

Mark 16:15-16

*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.*

This gospel of the kingdom of God is the gospel which must be preached, received and believed.

Peter Wagner agreed with Eldon Ladd that "the kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus" and adds, "I certainly have read about it enough in the Bible. Matthew mentions the Kingdom 52 times, Mark 19 times, Luke 44 times and John 4. But I honestly cannot remember any pastor whose ministry I have been under actually preaching a sermon on the Kingdom of God. As I rummage through my own sermon barrel, I now realize that I myself have never preached a sermon on it. Where has the Kingdom been?"

Where indeed? What other fundamental teachings of the bible have been misplaced in favor of something else?

"I pray the Lord my soul to take" is not the prayer Jesus taught.

The prayer of Jesus is still appropriate, "thy kingdom come".

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