THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM – THE SAME INSTITUTION

Introduction:

1. In this study we want to study the church from the standpoint of the kingdom.

2. God’s people are set forth in the New Testament under many different figures – they are called:

   (1) “The house of God” I Tim. 3:15

   (2) “His body” Eph. 1:23

   (3) “The temple of God” I Cor. 3:17

   (4) “God’s Husbandry” I Cor. 3:9


   (6) “The Kingdom” Rev. 1:9; Col. 1:13

3. All these terms are used to teach us important truths concerning the church.

4. This is an important study because many in the religious world have the idea that THE CHURCH and THE KINGDOM are DIFFERENT.

5. These people teach that the Kingdom has not yet been established; they teach the kingdom is yet to come.

6. I would point out to you that the New Testament uses the word KINGDOM in TWO senses:

   (1) It speaks of the eternal Kingdom where God is. Matt. 25: 34; I Cor. 15:50; Acts 14:22; II Tim. 4:18; II Pet. 1:11

   (2) It speaks of the kingdom in the sense of His people governed by Christ on earth. I Cor. 15: 24; Col. 1:13; Matt. 7:21; John 3: 3, 5

   (3) The Kingdom in this sense, and the church, are one and the same people. Matt. 16: 18 – 19; Matt. 16: 28; Mk. 9:1; Matt. 11:11; John 18:36
I. IF THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH IT WOULD BE EITHER IN REGARD TO: (1) THE HEAD; (2) THE LAWS; (3) THE SUBJECTS; (4) THE TERRITORY

1. There is no difference in the HEAD.

   (1) Christ is the HEAD of the CHURCH. Eph. 1: 22 – 23

   (2) Christ is the KING of the KINGDOM. Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:5; Rev. 17:14

2. There is not difference in the laws for:

   (1) The Laws of the church is the inspired Word of God, given through the apostles. Eph. 3: 3 -5; II Tim. 3:16 – 17; (Gospel – Mk. 16: 15 – 16)

   (2) The Law of the Kingdom is the inspired Word of God given to Christ’s “Ambassadors”, the apostles. II Cor. 5: 17 – 20 (An ambassador is sent out by the head of a government, a term having to do with a kingdom. Matt. 13:19; 24:14).

3. There is no difference in the SUBJECT for:

   (1) Those born again are in the Kingdom. John 3: 3 -5; Col. 1:13

   (2) They are also in the Church. Mk. 16:16; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5: 25 – 26

4. There is no difference in the TERRITORY for:

   (1) In the church the territory is the hearts of men. I Pet. 3:15; Col. 3:15; II Cor. 10:5

   (2) In the Kingdom the territory is the hearts of men. Lk. 17: 20 – 21; John 14:16

II. THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH WERE ESTABLISHED AT THE SAME TIME:
1. The Kingdom was established on Pentecost.
   
   (1) Dan. 2:44
   
   (2) Mk. 9:1
   
   (3) Acts 1:8
   
   (4) Acts 2: 1 – 4

2. The Church was established on Pentecost.
   
   (1) Isa. 2: 2-3
   
   (2) Acts 2:47; I Tim. 3:15

III. TRUTH WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST:

1. It is a SPIRITUAL KINGDOM -- not carnal. John 18:36; Rom. 14:17

2. New creatures in Christ are the Israel of God today. Gal. 6: 15 – 16
   
   (1) II Cor. 5:17
   
   (2) How to get into Christ. Gal. 3:27
   
   (3) New creatures in Christ are Abraham’s seed. Gal. 3: 26 – 29; 3:7; Gen. 12:3

3. This spiritual kingdom of Christ is entered by a spiritual birth. John 3: 3 – 5

4. The kingdom’s mission in the world is spiritual. Lk. 19:10; Rom. 14: 17

5. It is nourished with spiritual food. I Pet. 2:2; II Tim. 4:2; Acts. 20:32

6. It is produced by a seed. Lk. 8:11; Matt. 13:19

7. The Lord’s Supper is eaten in the kingdom. Lk. 22: 29 – 30

8. The law of Christ governs its subjects. Gal. 6:2
9. Its **weapons** are not carnal. II Cor. 10: 3 – 5

10. It **cannot** be destroyed. Dan. 2:44: Heb. 12:28

11. The righteous **citizens** will be gathered into heaven the eternal kingdom in the end. I Cor. 15:24; Matt. 25: 34