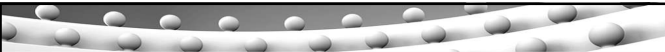





SECTION 6: THE KINGDOM OF GOD





Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" ... Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men [it is] impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life."

Mark 10:17, 23-30





Kingdom of God

- The "Kingdom of God" seems to be the newest catchphrase circulating throughout the Christian community. Unfortunately, this topic is often misinterpreted and misunderstood.
- The mission of every believer is to serve the Kingdom of God by executing the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 24:14, 16:18-19).
- The Kingdom of God does not give believers dominion over political, financial, or governmental systems of the world.






The Kingdom in the Old Testament


- The Hebrew word for kingdom is *malkuth*. It speaks of the territory or the domain of a king, as well as the authority, sovereignty, and right of the king to reign.
- This word is found in the story of Rehoboam establishing his kingdom (2 Chronicles 11:1, 17; 12:1).
 - Rehoboam was establishing his "right to rule" Israel. -- 2 Chronicles 11-12
 - King Belshazzar transgressed against God and lost his kingdom—he neither lost land nor physical domain, but rather his right to rule by the taking of his life (Daniel 5:26-31).

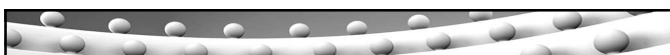




The Kingdom in the New Testament


- The New Testament counterpart to the word *malkuth* is the Greek word *basileia*.
- In Luke 19:12 Jesus gives a parable of a nobleman traveling to receive a Kingdom (*basileia*).
- The nobleman was traveling to receive the "right to rule."






Entering the Kingdom


- Those who received salvation have entered the Kingdom of God by subjugating themselves to Christ's rule.
- Thus submission is an important characteristic of those who have received salvation.
- While submission means different things to different people, our book highlights the following three things that must be understood about submission if we are to embrace it:
 - Submission is not submission unless there is disagreement.
 - Submission requires not only action, but also a proper attitude.
 - Submission is for our benefit (Hebrews 13:17).






Benefits of the Kingdom

- Salvation and eternal life are attributes and benefits exclusive to those who give Christ, our King, the right to rule their lives.
 - Declaring the resurrection is not enough to gain eternal life; we must also profess Christ's lordship (Romans 10:9-10).
 - What does submission to Christ's lordship look like in one's life?



Submitting to God

- Up to this point of the Bible study series we have discussed submission to Christ in the following ways:
 - Through service (Lesson 1)
 - By pursuing our Great Commission-centered vision (Lesson 2)
 - By submitting to the leaders Christ has given us (Lesson 3).
- Another way we submit to Christ is through stewardship.




Stewardship

...The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; - Psalm 24:1

- Stewardship is not simply about money.
 - While we cannot be good stewards without tithing and giving, we *can* be poor stewards while still tithing and giving.
 - God does not simply want us to give money, He wants us to give our lives!

Stewardship Quote

Some say dedicate the heart, and the money will follow; but our Lord put it the other way around. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If your treasure is dedicated, your heart will be dedicated. If it is not, it simply won't. It is as simple as that. -- Timothy Johnson



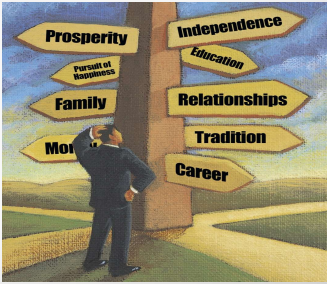
Stewardship in a Nutshell

- Stewardship is about using everything we have, including our lives and our agendas, to bring someone else to Christ.
- Thus Stewardship involves:
 - Time -We must be productive and not let the secular demands on our time prohibit us from executing the Great Commission.
 - Talent - We must proactively look for ways that our skills and talents can assist our leaders in their efforts to fulfill vision.
 - Treasures - We must be faithful in bringing our tithes and giving offerings.



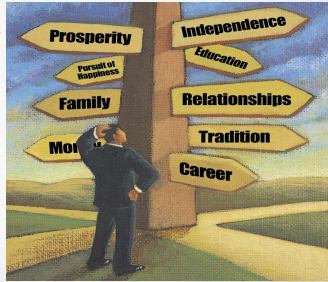
...Now What?

- Complete the questionnaire on page 71 of *I'm Saved! Now What?* Some of the questions asked are:
 - Does God govern my daily decisions, actions, and life plans?
 - Do you have personal relationships with the unsaved for the purpose of leading them to the King?
 - Do you joyfully submit to your pastor's leadership?



...Now What?

- Partner up with another person who has completed the questionnaire and:
 - Discuss your answers to the questions and what you can do to address your shortcomings.
 - Discuss ways to be a better steward and ask your partner to hold you accountable.
 - Pray with, and for, that person regarding the Great Commission.



Do You Have Questions?

If you have questions about salvation, the book, or any subject in this Bible study, please ask your questions via social media.

For more about The Kingdom of God, please visit:
www.DrDanaCarson.com and www.TheRockWOI.com