

THE CHURCH IN DENVER

THE KINGDOM

*From that time
Jesus began to proclaim and to say,
Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens
has drawn near.*

Matthew 4:17

Young People's Conference
Quaker Ridge Camp, Woodland Park, Colorado
April 11–13, 2008

Message One

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Hymns: 853, 942, 146

I. The Kingdom is the Goal of the Gospel and Salvation in the New Testament

A. Jesus began His ministry by preaching “repent for the kingdom”

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

B. The kingdom is the **object of the gospel**—the gospel is called the gospel of the kingdom

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

C. The kingdom is the **purpose of our new birth**

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

D. The kingdom is the **reason we have been purchased by God**

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; (See footnote 24³)

1 Peter 1:18–19 . . . not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were redeemed . . . but with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ.

Revelation 5:9–10 9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

E. The kingdom is God’s intention from the beginning as seen in Genesis 1:26 (Read footnote 5)

II. The Kingdom is the Ruling of God

A. *Kingdom* implies sovereign rule, kingly authority, reign, dominion, control

B. The Kingdom of God is the reign of God—the Kingdom of heaven is the reign of heaven

1. Before we were saved we were under the authority of Satan

Colossians 1:12–13 12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light; 13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

2. Outwardly our lives were governed by men:

a. As children we were under the authority of our parents

b. As students we were under the authority of our teachers

c. As citizens we were under the authority of the state (*police, army, IRS, etc.*)

[This is God’s ordination to protect and limit man—*Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God.*]

3. But, there was no divine authority in our lives.

- C. The gospel brought us under the rule of God
1. Repent of not being subject to the authority of heaven, not submitting to the sovereignty of God
 2. By repenting and believing we are brought under God's rule
 3. The Lord we received is not only our Savior, He is the King
 - a. Exalted to the throne
Philippians 2: 9–11 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
 - b. Has received all authority
Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 - c. Is Lord and Christ
Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.
 4. We are made a kingdom – brought under His control
Revelation 1:5–6 5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood 6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- D. The Kingdom is a very practical matter in our daily living
Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

References:

The Kingdom and the Church, Chapter 1

Message Two

Life and the Kingdom

Hymns: 853, 521, 383

I. God created man to express Him and represent Him, i.e., to rule for Him on the earth

Genesis 1:26, 28 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. . . . And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

A. God's purpose is to establish His kingdom on the earth

Daniel 7:13–14 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him. / And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Matthew 6:9–10, 13b **9** You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; **10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. . . . **13b** For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain man of noble birth went to a distant country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

B. God created man in His image and according to His likeness, and charged him to rule over the earth

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

C. To represent God and express His glory, man needs the life of God

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

D. By our divine birth, we have received the kingdom life

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

Luke 17:20–21 **20** And when He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation; **21** Nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Daniel 7:13–14 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And

they brought Him near before Him. / And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

II. We have received a life that can live in God's kingdom

A. The demands of the kingdom are impossible for the natural man

Matthew 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Matthew 5:38–40 38 You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” 39 But I tell you not to resist him who is evil; rather whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And to him who wishes to sue you and take your tunic, yield to him your cloak also;

Matthew 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

Matthew 19:23–24 23 And Jesus said to His disciples, Truly I say to you, Only with difficulty will a rich man enter into the kingdom of the heavens. 24 And again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

B. The demands of the kingdom are easy for God

Matthew 19:25–26 25 And when the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, Who then can be saved? 26 And looking upon them, Jesus said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

C. We have received the divine life that longs to live in God's kingdom

D. Whether we live in the kingdom practically or not depends on who is on the throne in our being

III. The Christian life is a joy when we live in God's kingdom

Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait on Jehovah will renew their strength; / They will mount up with wings like eagles; / They will run and will not faint; / They will walk and will not become weary.

A. The life within us longs to live in God's kingdom

B. The river of water of life flows from the throne of God, God's authority

Revelation 22:1–2 1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. 2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

C. We need to consecrate ourselves to the Lord and ask Him to reign in us

References:

The Kingdom and the Church, Chapter 2

What the Kingdom is to the Believers, Chapters 3–4

Message Three

Pursuing the Kingdom

Hymns: 1205, 1206, 1207, 947

I. We need a change in our concept of value

A. Our valuation of Christ

1. Must be based on God's valuation

1 Peter 2:6–7 **6** For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame." **7** To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,"

2. Is dependant on our knowledge and seeing

Hebrews 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

B. Our valuation of the kingdom

1. Must be based on the Lord's valuation

Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid, and in his joy goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

2. The proper valuation and seeking of the kingdom

Matthew 6:32–33 **32** For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

II. We need to seek and pursue the kingdom

A. By putting away every encumbrance and sin

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

1. The Christian life being a race

2. Runners do not weigh themselves down; athletes must exercise self-control

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 **24** Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold. **25** And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible. **26** I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air; **27** But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest perhaps having preached to others, I myself may become disapproved.

B. By being diligent to grow in life

2 Peter 1:4–8, 11 **4** Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust. **5** And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge; **6** And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness; **7** And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love. **8** For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither

idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . 11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

1. Putting away requiring our initiation but by the power of God's life
2. Needs our cooperation in being diligent
3. Our growth in life being our entrance into the kingdom

C. By running with endurance

Hebrews 10:35–36 35 Do not cast away therefore your boldness, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance in order that, having done the will of God, you may obtain the promise.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us,

1. The Christian life being a marathon, not a sprint
2. Our growth in life being day-by-day over a period of time, not instant

III. We need to *flee and pursue with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart*

2 Timothy 2:22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Peter 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Song of Songs 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you — The king has brought me into his chambers — / We will be glad and rejoice in you; / We will extol your love more than wine. / Rightly do they love you.

A. We need to flee youthful lusts.

1. To flee is to run away from intently, to escape
2. Lusts are desires of our body, desires of our soul that are passionate and fierce

1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. (See footnote 1)

3. Youthful lusts are what are stirred up by the world today in the flood of dissoluteness and result in our corruption, making us useless to the Lord. (1 Peter 4:4—everyone is running somewhere...)
4. These are the encumbrances and entangling sins that will hinder our running of the race

B. We need to pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace

1. Righteousness is toward ourselves, that we may live in a righteous way in our actions, words and work; this is to have Christ as the righteous One lived out of us

Matthew 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens. (See footnotes 1 & 3)

Philippians 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith, (See footnotes 2 & 5)

2. Faith is toward God, that we would believe and receive His word and His promises
3. Love is toward one another; we have been loved by God and have His love within us; to love one another with this higher love is a condition of our mutual abiding with God

1 John 4:7 7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.

4. Peace is the issue of these three virtues; we have peace toward God and peace with man

C. We need to both flee and pursue with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart—we need companions

1. Our friends should be fellow Christians that we can pursue the Lord together with as companions
 - a. Our companions should be those that encourage us in righteousness, faith, love, and peace
 - b. Young people useful to the Lord have always had companions (Joshua and Caleb, Daniel and his three friends)
2. Alone we may be strong, but we are far weaker than God's enemy and are easily influenced by this world
3. Bad companions corrupt good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33)—we need to keep good companions who will help us pursue the Kingdom

IV. The result of our pursuit is the Kingdom as our reward

2 Timothy 4:8, 18 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. . . . 18 The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will save me into His heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

Revelation 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.

- A. The crown of righteousness is given to those that run the race and finish the race according to their works in righteousness
 1. This is not our eternal salvation which is based on mercy and grace, but the receiving of a reward based on our work according to Christ as the righteous judge
 2. We will be judged according to how much we have denied our self, taken up the cross, and lost our soul life—the amount we have allowed Christ to reign, operate, and live in us

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- B. Today, the Kingdom is an exercise, something we run after and pursue and are being qualified in; soon, it will be our reward to co-reign with Christ in his Kingdom for 1000 years
 - 1. It is good to have the desire to have the reality of the Kingdom, but not enough
 - 2. We need to be qualified in this age to receive the kingdom as a reward in the coming age

Message Four

Allowing Christ to Rule as Our King

Hymns: 853, 521, 160

I. In His ascension, the Lord Jesus was exalted, crowned, and given all authority in heaven and on earth

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

Ephesians 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

A. The One who came into us when we got saved is the King of the universe

B. When we call, "Lord Jesus," we acknowledge His lordship over us

II. The Lord is now ruling on the throne in heaven

Revelation 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Revelation 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

Psalms 2:6-8 6 But I have installed My King / Upon Zion, My holy mountain. 7 I will recount the decree of Jehovah; / He said to Me: You are My Son; / Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, / And I will give the nations as Your inheritance / And the limits of the earth as Your possession.

III. Our spirit has been joined to the heavens so that Christ can rule within us

A. The Lord has joined earth to heaven to set up His throne in our being; His throne is not only in the third heavens but also in our spirit

Genesis 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

B. The Lord rules in us by the sense of our conscience

Acts 24:16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

1 John 3:20 Because if our heart blames us, it is because God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

Romans 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,

C. The Lord's government in our being is exercised by His life and His peace

Revelation 22:1-2 1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Romans 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.

IV. We need to be under the heavenly ruling to be His disciples bringing others into the kingdom

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

V. To allow Christ to rule as our King we have to repent for the kingdom

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.

References:

What the Kingdom is to the Believers, Chapters 2-6

Message Five

The Church and the Kingdom

Hymn 853

I. The Relationship between the Kingdom and the Church

Matthew 16:18–19 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

Ephesians 1:22–23 22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, 23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

- A. The Bible presents the kingdom first (*Matthew 4:17*) and then presents the church (*Matthew 16:18*)
- B. The keys of the kingdom are given to make the building of the church possible, and they were used by Peter on the day of Pentecost and in the house of Cornelius
- C. By her submission to the heavenly rule, the church deals with God's enemy and brings in the kingdom so that the gates of Hades (Satan's kingdom) cannot prevail against the builded church
- D. In brief, the kingdom produces the church, the church brings in the kingdom, and the ultimate issue is the kingdom and the church blending into one in the New Jerusalem

II. The Building of the Church in Relation to the Kingdom

Ephesians 4:7–12 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended," what is it except that He also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended, He is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers, 12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:5, 9 5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. . . . 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- A. To be saved is to be delivered out of Satan's authority and to be placed under the authority of Christ

Ephesians 2:2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience. (See footnotes 2² and 2³)

Colossians 1:12–14 12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light; 13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- B. The building up of the church comes when men are brought under the ruling of the church's Head

Colossians 2:19 . . . [H]olding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Ephesians 4:15–16 15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, 16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- C. When we submit to the rule of Christ as our Head, we will find ourselves being built together with others who are also in subjection to His authority

Ephesians 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- D. A continual submission to the Headship of Christ makes way for the flow of His life and issues in the building up of the church

III. The Church life is the sphere in which the Kingdom life is lived out

- A. When we have the Lord on the throne in our lives and we submit ourselves to His ruling, the kingdom life operates in the three main areas of our lives

1. The kingdom life begins in our family life, and we are able to honor and obey our parents and to love our brothers and sisters

Ephesians 6:1–3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise, 3 “That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.”

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.

[In both Romans 1:30 and 2 Timothy 3:2 “disobedient to parents” is listed with the wicked practices of this evil age condemned by God; in 2 Timothy 3:5 Paul says “from these turn away”]

[*Ephesians 2:1–2 1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, 2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience . . . (See footnotes 2² & 2³)*]

2. The kingdom life is carried out in our human life in this world, and we are able to be subject to all the authorities God has placed over us

Romans 13:1–2 1 Let every person be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God. 2 So then he who resists the authority opposes God's ordination, and those who oppose will receive judgment to themselves. (See footnotes 1³ & 1⁴)

[Human government was instituted by God (Gen 9:6) because man rejected God's direct rule (God's presence) and was unable to rule himself by submitting to his God created conscience]

3. The kingdom life continues in the church life where we are enabled to obey the ones leading us and submit to them, and to love one another

Hebrews 13:17 Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.

- B. The church life is a great and wonderful sphere with the full provision of the Lord's life and blessing for us to seek first the kingdom of God and pursue together with companions who are also seeking and pursuing
- C. If we meet, live, and serve in the church life under the heavenly rule, Satan will be defeated, the Father's name will be sanctified, the Lord's will shall be done on the earth as it is in heaven, and the kingdom will come

Matthew 6:9-13 9 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; 10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

References:

The Kingdom and the Church, Chapters 3 & 4