



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

**Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053**

## A KINGDOM WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED

Roger D. Campbell

About 600 years before the birth of Jesus, God prophesied through the prophet Daniel that He would set up “a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44). How great that eternal kingdom is! Even before Mary conceived Jesus, the angel Gabriel came to her and foretold that she would bear a son, promising, “And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:33).

Before the kingdom was established, what were God’s servants saying about it? John the Baptist preached, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). Jesus also preached the gospel of the kingdom of God, saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:14,15). Later Jesus sent the apostles to preach to the house of Israel with this message: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 10:7). After that Jesus again sent 70 disciples and they preached, “The kingdom of God is come nigh to you” (Luke 10:9).

Approximately one year before His death, Jesus made two very important statements about the kingdom. He promised His apostles that He would build His church, then immediately told Peter that He would give him the “keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18,19). This passage helps us see that the kingdom and church are the same. Shortly after that Jesus made this prediction: “Verily I say unto you, that there be some of

them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, til they have seen the kingdom of God come with power” (Mark 9:1). Thus, Jesus promised that some of those who heard Him teaching would not die until the kingdom of God came with power. When Jesus said that, the beginning of the kingdom was drawing closer.

On the day that Jesus died, just after His death, Joseph of Arimathaea came to Pilate and asked if he might have the body of Jesus. Joseph is described as a man who “waited for the kingdom of God” (Mark 15:43). Thus, the kingdom had not yet come when Jesus died. When the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, they received power from on high, and the kingdom came with power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4). The kingdom’s establishment is recorded in Acts chapter two and took place in the city of Jerusalem in the year A.D. 30.

Over thirty years later the apostle Paul wrote to the saints at Colosse and declared that God “hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear son” (Colossians 1:13). Therefore, those Christians were in the kingdom of Christ, and it existed in the first century. The Holy Spirit also says, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28). Thus, the kingdom had been received in the first century, and it is immovable, it cannot be destroyed, and it is eternal!

How grateful we ought to be to God for the kingdom which He established. How thankful we ought to be that we can be citizens in that kingdom, the church! Think for a moment about some of the privileges and blessings which we have as citizens of the kingdom of heaven. First of all we have security, for the Bible says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1). In the kingdom we have victory over our foes. We have victory over the world (1 John 5:4), victory over Satan (James 4:7), victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:23-25,55-56), and our victory comes through our King, Jesus: “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). We also have all spiritual blessings in the kingdom (Ephesians 1:3), including the remission of sins, hope of eternal life, the privilege of prayer, and many others. Let us not forget one other great privilege which we have because we are citizens in the kingdom. We have the wonderful blessing to be able to have fellowship with the greatest people on the earth! The citizens of Christ’s kingdom are the best people on earth, and we should thank God for the opportunity to work, live and serve with them. As we walk in the light as He is in the light, “We have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

The “kingdom of God” and “kingdom of Christ” are the same (Ephesians 5:5). It is the greatest kingdom in the history of man. Let us be thankful for it, live faithfully in it, and tell others about it!

# Lost in the Library

Nathan Brewer

Libraries are full of helpful information. But, you have to know where to go to get what you need. If you’re looking for an encyclopedia, it’s useless to search the biography section. The information you need is in the building, but if you don’t know where to look, you won’t find it.

The same goes for the Bible. Although we think of it as a single document, the Bible contains 66 individual books, each with a different purpose. It’s helpful to think of it as a Divine library. And just as libraries can only help us when we know how to use them, we can only get the religious information we need when we know where to look.

Consider the Old Testament book of Psalms. Several Israelites composed the various songs that make up the book. While some contain prophecy, expressions of grief and instruction, most of them are praises to God. Yet many who profess to be Christians appeal to Psalms to justify worshipping with mechanical instruments. Jewish worship found in the Old Covenant was never intended for followers of Christ, only fleshly descendants of Jacob. Jesus fulfilled the Jewish law and established Christianity (Matthew 5:17; Galatians 3:24-25; Hebrews 8:6-13). Psalms was not written to explain New Testament worship.

Some are going to the wrong source for information. Psalms teaches us great principles about God’s love and the reverent, thankful attitudes we should have toward Him. But we need to find instructions for how God wants Christians to worship.

A more elementary concern is the confusion over where to find instructions for salvation. John 3:16 is a good example. Many use this passage to teach that all we need to do to go to heaven is believe that Jesus is God’s Son. Here’s the problem: The four Gospel accounts, including John, were not written to give the specific terms of pardon. They were written to produce faith in Jesus as God’s Son, the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament and Savior of the world, so that sinners will believe and obey Christ (John 20:30-31). The Gospel records give components of salvation, but they don’t tell the whole story.

Many mistakenly cite the epistles to tell the lost how to be saved. A tract entitled “The Roman Road to Salvation” claims to instruct sinners how to go to heaven from the book of Romans. But the epistles, Romans through Revelation, were written to Christians who were already saved. Paul and the other writers often reminded their audiences what they did when they obeyed the Gospel, but they did not write to tell sinners what to do. The epistles were written to help Christians stay saved.

That leaves Acts. Here, for the first time, Jesus is preached as the crucified and resurrected Savior sitting at God’s right hand (Acts 2:22-36). Inspired men tell sinners how to be saved for the first time (Acts 2:37-41). Not only does Acts give us a history of the early church, it’s the only book in the Bible that gives examples of conversion. So, it’s the blueprint we must use to know how to receive forgiveness today. And when we examine all of the conversions in Acts, we find that a sinner must hear and believe the Gospel (Acts 8:26-37), repent of his sins (Acts 2:38), be willing to confess Christ as God’s Son (Acts 8:37), and be baptized in water (Acts 2:38; 8:38; 10:47-48; 16:33; 18:8; 22:16) to be saved.

Part of faithfulness to God involves using His Word correctly (2 Timothy 2:15). You’ve got to go to the right source within the Bible to get the religious information you need.

# Observations and Concerns

May 31, 2023

**Welcome Visitors!** It is our Honor to Honor YOU as our welcomed guests.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2).

**Expression of Gratitude:** We appreciate all who are diligently laboring to make our VBS a success.

**VBS:** June 11–14, 2023; Theme: Peter. The next two Saturdays will be workdays to prepare for VBS. Everyone is invited. Some will be working at the building while others will be distributing flyers in the community.

**Fifth Wednesday Singing** is this evening, Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Our sympathy is extended to the Cash family on the passing of **Bruce Cash**. His service is set for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am at Mowry Funeral Home in Owasso.

**Remember in Prayer:**

- ▶ **Jim Allison** continues to struggle with his health. He has recently been in the hospital.
- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** recently had an appointment with her oncologist.
- ▶ **Bill Dilks** had appointments with his doctors today to determine further treatments.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** continues to struggle with heart problems.
- ▶ **Sherry Carmona** is scheduled to have knee surgery on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ **Bobbie Mooney**, friend of the Nelsons, has cancer and is declining.
- ▶ **Jacob Webster**, grandson of the Hudsons, is recovering from a dog attack.
- ▶ **Gary and Margie McNatt**, friends of the Carmonas and their daughter’s (Amanda) in-laws, are having a difficult time. Gary has been ill, and Margie’s mother passed away.
- ▶ **Alexis**, daughter of Stephanie Huckleby, is having difficulties. See Stephanie for details.
- ▶ **Johnny and Judy Winkle’s mother** is in poor health and on hospice care.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, May 31	Sunday, June 4 AM	Sunday, June 4 PM
	Announcements	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
	Song Leader	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
	Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson
	Lord’s Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks / Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM				
Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM				
Website: oologahcofc.org				