

The Value Of The Kingdom

Matthew 13:45-46 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a merchant seeking goodly pearls; and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Usage Of The “Kingdom Of God” In The Scriptures

- ▶ God’s Universal Dominion. Psalms 145:10-13
- ▶ The Hebrew Nation Or Twelve Tribes Of Israel. Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Chronicles 28:5; 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8
- ▶ The Redeemed Of God Under The Present Reign Of Christ.
 - Anticipated in prophecy. Daniel 2:44
 - Prophesied by Jesus. Matthew 21:43
 - Existed in NT times. Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9
 - Established in Acts 2. “The beginning ...” Acts 11:15
- ▶ The Heavenly Kingdom. The Redeemed in Heaven, 2 Peter 1:10

What is the VALUE of this kingdom?

What are the “in kingdom” benefits?

- ▶ We have learned from preceding lessons that the kingdom, the church, the house of God are the same.
- ▶ Another figure is “*the body of Christ.*” Ephesians 1:22-23

The Importance Of The Kingdom

- ▶ All spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3
- ▶ Forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7
- ▶ Redemption. Ephesians 1:7
- ▶ Salvation. 2 Timothy 2:10; cf. Acts 2:47
- ▶ New creatures. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ▶ Hope of eternal life. Titus 1:2

THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH ARE NOT SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS AFTER ALL.

Note the identifying marks of each.

	KINGDOM	CHURCH
1. Beginning place and time	Isaiah 2:2-3	Acts 2:1-47
2. Territory – heart	Luke 17:20-21	Colossians 3:15; Hebrews 8:10
3. Boundary of territory	Daniel 2:44	Mark 16:15
4. Owner of institution	John 18:36	Matthew 16:18
5. Ruler over its inhabitants	1 Timothy 6:15	Ephesians 1:22-23
6. Governing law	Isaiah 2:3	Acts 2:36-47
7. Christ gave keys	Matthew 16:19	Matthew 16:18
8. Terms of entrance	John 3:5	Acts 2:38-47
9. Membership	Colossians 1:13	Colossians 1:2
10. Memorial supper set	Matthew 26:29	1 Corinthians 11:20-27
11. Glory and exaltation	Isaiah 2:2-3	Ephesians 3:21
12. Reward for faithful	Matthew 25:31-34	1 Corinthians 15:58
13. Time of deliverance	1 Corinthians 15:24	1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Benefits In The Kingdom Of Christ

- ▶ Forgiveness. Ephesians 1:7
- ▶ Redemption. Ephesians 1:7
- ▶ Salvation. 2 Timothy 2:10; cf. Acts 2:47
- ▶ New creatures. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ▶ Hope of eternal life. Titus 1:2
- ▶ All spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3

The Value Of The Kingdom As Taught By Jesus

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God ..."
Matthew 6:33-34

Excuses:

- ▶ My spouse, or parents, or even my children.
- ▶ My job, business, or profession.
- ▶ My social life (drinking, dancing, gambling, partying, etc.)
- ▶ If being in the kingdom of God means I must worship regularly, read and study the Bible
- ▶ **Such reasoning loses sight of the real value of the kingdom of God, thinking that life is just things and pleasure.**

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The Value Of The Kingdom As Taught By Jesus

The Parable of the pearl of great price.
Matthew 13:45-46

- ▶ The merchant sold all that he had and bought the pearl, **because he recognized its value.** Many different conceptions of value.
- ▶ **Financial security.** Luke 12:16-21
- ▶ **Sinful pleasures of the world.** 1 John 2:15; James 4:4
- ▶ **Worldly wisdom; education.** Acts 17:16-21; 1 Corinthians 1:18ff
- ▶ **Physical health or exercise.** cf. 1 Timothy 4:8

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The Value Of The Kingdom

Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 3:8-11, "Yea verily, and I count **all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, (even) that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith:**

1. that I may know him, 2. and the power of his resurrection, 3. and the fellowship of his sufferings, 4. becoming conformed unto his death; if by any means I may attain unto the resurrection from the dead."

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But why is the kingdom so valuable?

- ▶ Assures the greatest satisfaction in this life – forgiveness, peace of mind, happiness, and hope.
- ▶ Its value becomes evident at death, at the judgment, and throughout eternity. 2 Corinthians 4:16ff; 1 Timothy 6:6ff; 2 Timothy 4:8; cf. Hebrews 12:28

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The Value Of The Kingdom

When One Recognizes The Value Of The Kingdom, He Is Willing To Pay The Price.

- ▶ **The merchant of Matthew 13:45, immediately, and joyfully, sacrificed everything he had in order to possess this ONE pearl.**
- ▶ The price is not cheap (it was not all in terms of dollars and cents; but in terms of sacrifice and self-denial).
- ▶ It costs everything. cf. Luke 5:27; Matthew 16:24ff; cf. Luke 14:26ff – Family – Hebrews 11:24-26

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The Value Of The Kingdom

When One Recognizes The Value Of The Kingdom, He Is Willing To Pay The Price.

Costs some more than others.

- ▶ One of the scribes. Mark 12:28-34
- ▶ Paul. Philippians 3:5-8
- ▶ **What Is the Possible Cost to You?**
 - Popularity and honor among men. John 5:44; 12:42-43.
 - Family. cf. Matthew 10:37-38
- ▶ Luke 14:33, "So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not **all that he hath**, he cannot be my disciple."
- ▶ Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (KJV)

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