

SERIES: "1ST THINGS 1ST – THIS IS WHAT WE DO"

MESSAGE: "WE SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM"

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"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." – MATTHEW 6:33

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD ("KOG")

- Generally speaking, the New Testament uses the phrases "Kingdom of God" and the "Kingdom of Heaven" synonymously
 - *"The Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* – Rom. 14:17
 - *"The Kingdom of God is a reality that calls for present, radical commitment – a life of holiness and service under the present reign of Christ."* – Dr. Joel Green, Fuller Seminary
 - *"The Kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, is attained by faith in Jesus Christ."* – John Wesley
 - *"The Kingdom of God is not a place; it's a condition of the heart where the reign and rule of God is at hand."* – George Wasson
1. As believers, we see the KOG as a _____ and a _____ reality (an "already not yet")

"I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God." – Lk. 9:27

[Jesus] *"The Kingdom of God is already among you."* – Lk. 17:21

[Jesus] *"Look, I am making everything new!"* – Rev. 21:5

2. We enter the KOG when we _____ and _____ our hearts over to the God who offered all of Himself to us

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'" – Jn. 3:3

[Jesus] *"I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."* – Lk. 18:17

"When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God." – Gal. 5:19-21

3. As citizens in the KOG, we continually _____ and _____ of competing loyalties in our lives

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." – 1 Jn. 1:9

"The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News." – Mk. 1:15

"Repentance isn't just 'acting right' – it's not just stopping bad behavior and adding good behavior... repentance is understanding that we are reconciled with God because of God's love, it's surrendering our heart to God and asking for the Spirit to transform us there first." – Unremarkable Conjecture (Podcast)

4. We remain citizens of the KOG as we constantly, intentionally, _____ it through our priorities, our pursuits and our passions

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need." – Lk. 12:31

"I'll say it again – 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." – Mat. 19:24

"For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power." – 1 Cor. 4:20

"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." – Mat. 6:10

*All Scripture references are from the New Living Translation (NLT) of the Bible