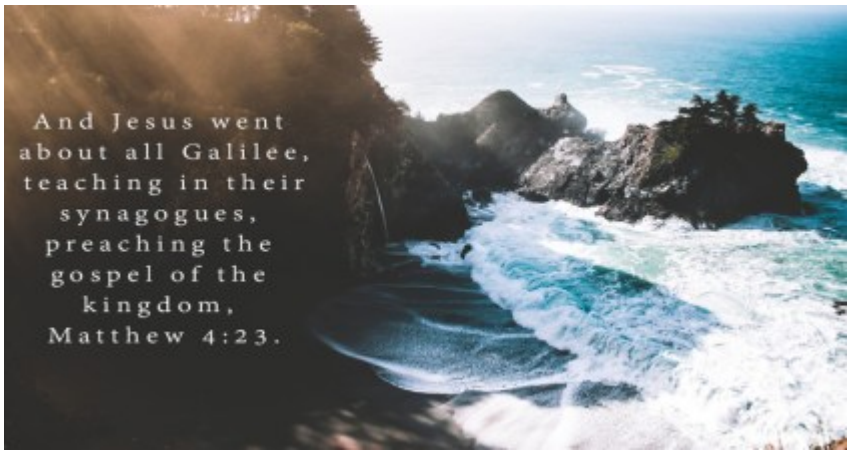
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The Gospel of the Kingdom of God



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #94 ~

What was the main message preached by Jesus and the apostles in the first century? It was the gospel! This gospel, this good news, explains that people are sinners, but that Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of man, died on the cross to pay for peoples' sins, and all those who repent and believe in Him, are justified, forgiven, and will go to heaven (Romans 1:18-32, 3:21-25, 4:4-8, 5:6-10, 6:23, 10:9-13). But it wasn't just the gospel they preached, it was the gospel of the kingdom of God! Now I am not saying that you need to do more than repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ to be saved. What I am saying is that believing the gospel results in being forgiven of your sins and going to heaven, and also becoming a member of the kingdom of God!

Look at all these verses that talk about the gospel and the kingdom of God:
* Matthew 4:23 – *"Jesus was going throughout all Galilee… proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom."*
* Matthew 24:14 – *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will*

come."
* Mark 1:14-15 – *"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"*
* Luke 4:43 – *"But He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.'"*
* John 3:5 – *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*
* Acts 8:12 – *"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized."*
* Acts 19:8 – *"He continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God."*
* Acts 20:24-25 – *"to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God… I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face."*
* Acts 28:23 – *"He was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus…"* Acts 28:31
* Colossians 1:13 – "*He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."*

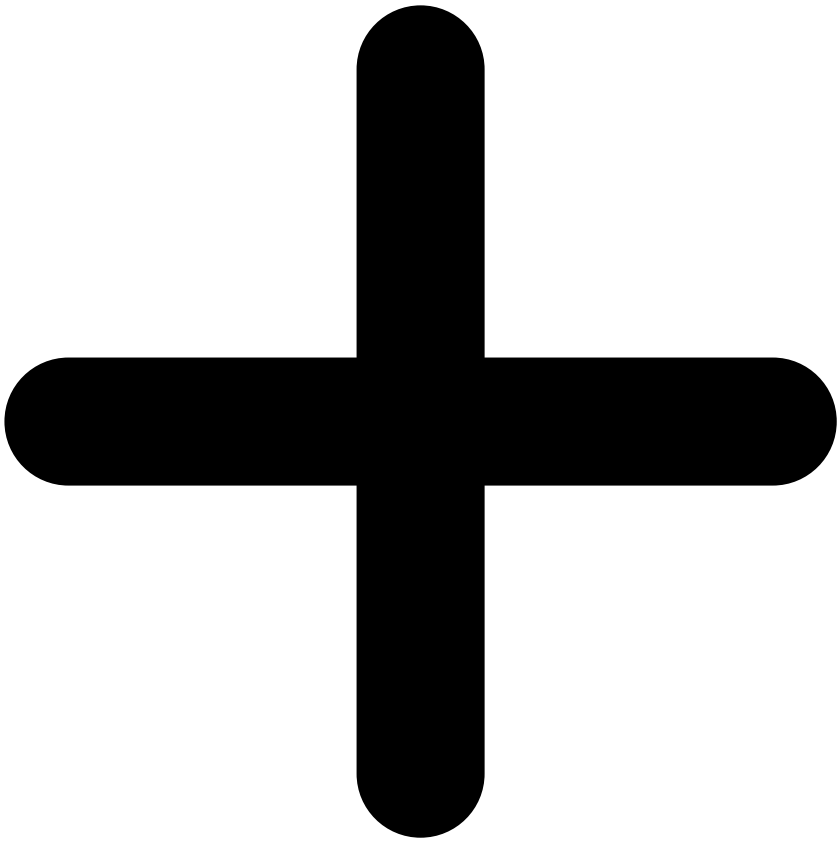
What was being preached in the first century? It was the gospel of the kingdom of God! Clearly, the emphasis of gospel preaching is being saved, and becoming a member, not just of the church, but also of the kingdom of God. And this kingdom goes on forever, including all future ages, as well as incredible blessings and benefits. When we talk to people about Jesus Christ and salvation, we need to also share with them God's kingdom perspective, for God wants them to see the big picture. People need to know that once they are born again, they enter into God's kingdom, a spiritual kingdom, where Christ inwardly rules in their hearts. (Luke 17:21). Then when Christ returns, He will rapture the believers, pour out His wrath, redeem a remnant of Jews, and set up His physical kingdom on earth, at which time He will still be ruling in believers' lives, but also, outwardly ruling over the entire world.

But now, close to 2000 years after Christ's first coming, I sense that many believers think this church age will just keep going, failing to realize that it will soon come to an end, and that the next phase of God's kingdom will then be established on earth. That's why it's critical to understand what God's word is telling us about the kingdom of God. At this time, we are living in the church age, what I call, Phase one. At the end of this age, there's a short transition time (Revelation 7-10, 15-19), then there's Phase two, when we will reign with Christ for 1000 years (Revelation 20). *"Then comes the end* (of the millennial kingdom), *when He* (Christ) *hands over the kingdom to God the Father"* (1 Corinthians 15:24), which begins Phase three, the eternal kingdom. Revelation 21-22

I hope you are beginning to understand God's kingdom plans, that He's faithfully carrying them out, that He is now leading you, together with the entire world, to that point when He will send His Son back to establish His kingdom on earth. So what does God want you to do?
– You are to be praying: *"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* Matthew 6:9-10
– You are to be "*proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God."* Matthew 4:23, 24:14
– You are to serve Him: *"Do business with this until I come back."* Luke 19:11-27
– You are to preach rightly: *"In view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: preach the word"* (2 Timothy 4:1-2). To have real purpose and power in your preaching, you need to connect it to Christ's return and His coming kingdom on earth.

I must say, I get very excited and encouraged when I think of who God has made us to be, and what He has in store for us: *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth"* (Revelation 5:10). In conclusion*, "Your life is now hidden with Christ in God* (church age)*. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory"* (kingdom ages). Colossians 3:3-4

P.S. Being Thankful – The Character of a Christian. Thanksgiving Day will be here soon, but as you know, we are to be thankful every day of the year. Here is an article that I believe will help you to see the value and blessing of being thankful.





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