

## **TEACHING ARTICLE**

**Jim Bevis, 6/9, 2010**

(This message is presented in outline form to allow those using it to add their own comments).

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14. NKJ

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

A. There is no question that the subject of the Kingdom is on God’s heart and front burner. (It’s always been there. We are just discovering its priority).

B. There is no subject that the average church members know less about than the kingdom of God. If you don’t believe me, pass out 3x5 cards and ask your members to write out their definitions of the kingdom. You will get every kind of answer including some blanks.

C. Praise God the Kingdom and more specifically, the Gospel of the Kingdom, is coming to the forefront. An increasing number are hungering for “kingdom reality.” There is an all out pursuit on the part of some for a greater understanding of the kingdom.

D. I would like to begin the message by reading with you some of the important Scriptures regarding the Kingdom and its’ Gospel:

Matthew 4:23	Matthew 9:35	Matthew 10:5-8
Luke 4:42-43	Luke 8:1,2	Luke 9:1,2,11
Luke 9:60	Luke 16:14-16	Acts 8:12
Acts 28:23, 30, 31		

E. There are at least two conclusions I would deduct from these Scriptures:

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom was the only Gospel Jesus ever preached. It was the Gospel of the Apostles and the Apostolic Church.
2. The proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom was always followed by supernatural signs and wonders.

F. Would this not lead us to conclude that the “power shortage” being experienced by most of today’s evangelical church might have something to do with the Gospel we are proclaiming (or not proclaiming). Is there a flaw in the message?

G. Read Galatians 1:6-9 and II Corinthians 11:34 Are we preaching a gospel that is “another gospel?” Is it a “gospel” proclaimed by one Paul would consider accursed? Do we have a need to re-examine the message we are preaching when it does not produce the supernatural manifestations witnessed in the early church? Is it possible that if we got the message right the “signs and wonders” would follow?

## **II. THE BODY OF THE MESSAGE**

### **A. Definition of the Kingdom**

1. Begin by defining “the kingdom.”
2. Jesus’ definition of the kingdom: “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10). Isn’t it correct that assume that when His will is Being done on earth as it is in heaven, there is the kingdom?
3. What else did Jesus and the Scripture say about the kingdom that might help define it? See Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:17; Matthew 3:2; Luke 17:21; John 18:36
4. Definitions I like:
  - The rule and reign of God
  - The government of God
  - The sphere of Christ’s reign
  - The state of affairs where the will of God is being done.
  - where people live willingly, and obediently under the authority of the Lord Jesus.
  - where ever Jesus Christ has dominion, rule and authority in an individual, family or church, there is the kingdom of God.

### **B. Marks of the Gospel of the Kingdom.**

#### **1. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- a. First and foremost, the Gospel of the Kingdom focuses on Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord and King. I Corinthians 15:1-8.
- b. Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the Kingdom message. Colossians 1:28; I Corinthians 1:23; Acts 2:22-24.
- c. Without Jesus Christ as the heart of the message, there is no good news. Acts 4:12.

#### **2. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord.**

- a. The Gospel of the kingdom is no “easy believism” or gospel of “cheap grace.” It’s much more than saying a “sinner’s prayer” and then going on your way doing what you please.
- b. Paul said “we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord...” II Corinthians 4:5. Romans 10:9 calls for the confession of the “Lord Jesus.”
- c. The Gospel of the Kingdom is more than getting folks saved. It is to bring the saved into the Kingdom and under the King’s dominion and rule. As those who have received Christ, we are brought into the Kingdom of His Son so that we can become an expression of His kingdom upon the earth. We are to be established “under His government.”

- d. The Gospel of the Kingdom concerns not only the needs of sinful men and women, first and foremost, it concerns the purpose of God. We have reversed this to focus primarily on our needs rather than His will.

### **3. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the Gospel of God's Grace**

- a. Read Acts 20:24 and 1 Corinthians 15:10.
- b. When we place emphasis on the Lordship of Jesus and obedience to Him, we are in no way advocating salvation by works. Ephesians 2:8,9
- c. It is by grace that God apprehends individuals to be ambassadors of His grace and to proclaim the gospel of Grace. By grace, the gospel of grace is proclaimed so that sinners can be saved by the grace of God.
- d. When we emphasize the Lordship of Christ, we should be saying that "salvation is a gift, but discipleship (kingdom citizenry) is costly."
- e. We are saved by grace through faith to do good works. Ephesians 2:10.

### **4. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.**

- a. There can be no gospel of the Kingdom apart from the person, work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - (1). We are born of the water and the Spirit. John 3:5.
  - (2). The Holy Spirit is given to all who receive Him. Acts 2:38.
  - (3). If anyone does not have the Spirit, he is not His. Romans 8:9.
  - (4). The Spirit is the one who gives Life. II Corinthians 3:6.
- b. Jesus did not begin to preach the gospel until He had first received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:16,
- c. The disciples were charged by Jesus not to begin their ministry of witnessing until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8.
- d. The anointing of the Holy Spirit was upon Jesus and His ministry. Acts 10:38.
- e. The first question asked by Paul of the Ephesian believers was "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed." (Acts 19:2).
- f. Experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit is not an option for one wanting to participate in the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel of the Kingdom.
- g. There is no Kingdom of God with the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

### **5. The Gospel of the Kingdom demonstrates the power of God.**

- a. Surely no one questions that the Gospel preached by Jesus and the apostles was always accompanied by power encounters. Read I Corinthians 4:20 I Corinthians 2:5 I Thessalonians 1:5 Romans 15:18-19.
- b. Jesus came not only to give us His Word but also to give us Himself. Christ in us, through the Holy Spirit, is our credential and power to Preach Him to a lost world.
- c. The Holy Spirit attests to the authority of Jesus over sickness and

- satanic oppression by working signs and wonders through the proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom message.
- d. The powerlessness being experienced by most of the church says something as to the message we are or are not proclaiming.

## **6. The Gospel of the Kingdom Reveals the Heart of God.**

- a. Read Matthew 11: 4-5 and Luke 4:18-21.
- b. The fact that we might speak the same words that Jesus used under similar circumstances does not necessarily mean that we are preaching the gospel of the Kingdom.
- c. The words of Jesus came from a heart moved by love and compassion for the state of lost men and women. Jesus wept over the needs of His people.
- d. The gospel of the Kingdom is not only correct words and content but the true Gospel of the Kingdom reveals the Father Heart of God. How can I preach the gospel of the Kingdom if my heart is not broken with compassion for those in need.
- e. Our hearts must be changed and cleansed in order to reveal the mercy of God. The only place to find mercy as at the throne of Grace where it is dispensed. Read:  
Psalm 86:13 Mathew 9:36 Matthew 14:14 Mark 6:34
- f. There must be an empathy in both heart and message that expresses the love and compassion of Jesus and the Father heart of God.
- g. Those to whom the gospel is preached can often sense what is rooted in mercy and compassion as well as what is not.
- h. The lack of compassion in our hearts and message can be a part of the reason we have not experienced the demonstration of the Kingdom power.

## **7. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the Gospel of Life and Changed Lives.**

- a. Paul said in II 3:6, “the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
- b. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life.” (John 10:10). In John 14:6, He says, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”
- c. The bottom line of the Gospel of the Kingdom is that it produces life where ever it goes. My experience has been that people will drive past fifty church buildings and jump ditches to find life. Life draws men and women to authentic Christianity. Religion (and religious death repels and turns off people to the real thing.
- d. The undeniable evidence that the Gospel of the Kingdom has been faithfully proclaimed is changed lives. See I Corinthians 6:11.
- e. Where the Gospel of the Kingdom has been proclaimed people have been changed for the good and abundant life is the fruit.

f. Paul told the Corinthians who were asking for his credentials, “You are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read by all men.” II Corinthians 3:2.

### III. CONCLUSION

- A. I believe that the “restoration of all things” mentioned by Peter in Acts 3:21 included the restoration of the Gospel of the Kingdom message. Praise God, We are experiencing in at least some circles the restoration of the Gospel of the Kingdom both in proclamation and demonstration.
- B. My heart is for a restored church, declaring a restored gospel, the Gospel of the Kingdom, to all the nations.
- C. We will conclude by listing five possible ways we and our people might Respond to this Gospel of the Kingdom message:
  - (1). Repent. (Matthew 4:17).
    - Repent of our disregard and ignorance regarding the Kingdom
    - Repent of incredibly bad theology that has exalted the kingdom of self and avoided the Kingdom of God
    - Repent of our lack of compassion and mercy
  - (2). Receive. (John 1:12).
    - Receive Jesus as Savior, Lord and King
    - Receive the kingdom rule and reign in your heart
    - Receive the government of God
    - Receive the kingdom mindset
    - Receive the kingdom priorities, kingdom agenda
    - Receive your kingdom destiny and purpose.
  - (3). Request.
    - After repentance and receiving Him and His kingdom, we are then in position to make our requests known to God. Philippians 4:6.
  - (4). Release
    - Release the Kingdom gospel to do its work
    - Release the Kingdom government in your midst
    - Release Kingdom power
    - Release a Kingdom atmosphere
  - (5). Rejoice!
    - Rejoice in the Lord. (Philippians 4:4)
    - Rejoice with those who are rejoicing because of what God has done.
- D. I suggest you close the message both with a prayer and a proclamation that the Kingdom has come to this house! This message should be followed with a time of “hands on” ministry declaring that the Kingdom has come and signs and wonders will follow.

