

Introduction

This week we are going to look at Romans 14:17 as we have been looking at revelation and ministry out of the presence of God.

Scripture

- **Romans 14:17** (NIV)

⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

We want to look at what Paul said, “that the kingdom of God is and is not.”

Jesus said He would build the church on the revelation of who He is. When he said to Peter flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. So the kingdom of God should manifest out of the church. The church and the Kingdom are one.

When Jesus said in Matthew 10:7-8:

Scripture

- **Matthew 10:7-8** (NIV)

⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, ^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

The Kingdom of heaven is near, as you go, preach this message, and not only preach it but demonstrate that the Kingdom of God is near, that it is not a matter of talk but of power.

In this scripture Jesus is saying that the Kingdom of heaven, which means, the government of heaven and the authority of heaven, is near.

The reason why it is near is because the Kingdom is within us, in our hearts.

Jesus is saying in this verse to demonstrate the Kingdom.

The message of the Kingdom is to bring freedom, restoration and all that Christ is as the head of the church.

Because what is in the head should flow into the body, and if Jesus is the head of the church, the things that He flowed in on the earth should naturally flow out of His body.

If we stay connected to the head we will naturally become proclaimers and demonstrators of the Kingdom of God.

Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 4:20** (NIV)

²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Every person in the body has a part to play and to be effective in advancing the Kingdom.

This will build the local church.

I am now coming to realize how many mistakes I have made over the years in my endeavour to separate the church and the Kingdom. But at last, I am finally coming to the realisation and revelation that the Kingdom of God and the church are one.

Jesus never came to change the system, He came with a message of His Father's Kingdom.

Scripture

- **Luke 5:37** (NIV)

³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.

He never came to try and force new wine into an old system.

He came to change people's hearts with a message of love, hope, forgiveness and restoration, which went entirely against the system of the day.

Once the heart is changed you can receive the new wine and revelation of who you are and the things that Christ can do through you.

Even today the message of the Kingdom is not accepted because we have a concept of a works mentality that does not accept God's grace. We are trying to put God into our way of doing things instead of surrendering to the way He wants things to be done.

The Father loves the church. As Jesus is the head of the church, we have no right to judge it or knock it or put it down because it is Christ's body, and I have been so guilty of doing this over the years.

Scripture

- **2 Corinthians 5:18** (AMP)

¹⁸ But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favour, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

As we come into a revelation of the Kingdom of God and all that it has for us, wouldn't it be amazing how much unity would come if we kept our eyes on Jesus and did not find faults, trying to correct everybody and to bring them around to our way of thinking.

Our job is to preach the kingdom and demonstrate the Kingdom out of the revelation of who we are in Christ and what Christ can do through us.

As this scripture says all things are from God and when we are in harmony with Him we see the Kingdom advanced. We need to be careful that we are not trying to build our own Kingdom.

Scripture

- **Titus 1:16** (NIV)

¹⁶ They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

As sinners, we were serving the kingdom of the devil.

The parables of Jesus describe what Kingdom life is all about, signs and wonders identify the reality that the Kingdom has become.

Scripture

- **John 10:10** (NIV)

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This scripture clearly demonstrates a distinction between two kingdoms:

- 1) Only comes to steal, kill and destroy.
- 2) The Kingdom of God comes to bring life and life to its fullness.

Jesus' intention is that we overflow with the abundance of life.

Rivers of life, rivers of healing, rivers of deliverance, rivers of restoration, all flowing out of His church.

The kingdom of God and his redemptive work invades the realm of the devil's kingdom and delivers enslaved men and women forgiving and restoring them to their rightful place as sons of God.

The miracles of Jesus, especially the casting out of demons, proves the reality of His Kingdom.

As we are willing to surrender and allow Jesus to work through us, signs and wonders will follow which will demonstrate the Kingdom is at hand and that His church is a demonstration and a manifestation of the power of God.

Scripture

- **Matthew 6:33** (AMP)

³³But seek (^[a]aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (^[b]His way of doing and being right), and then all these things ^[c]taken together will be given you besides.

We are told to seek first the kingdom and all these things will be added unto us. We are not told to seek signs and wonders, but to seek the kingdom of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 12:2** (NIV)

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

A kingdom divided cannot stand, that is why it's important that we fix our eyes on the author and Perfector of our faith, Jesus Christ.

Scripture

- **Matthew 6:9-15** (NIV)

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done,

When Jesus said to the disciples pray like this, “Father hallowed be thy name. Your Kingdom come,” through this, as people of God, we have been given authority in the Power of Jesus’ name to speak forth and declare the Kingdom come and His will be done.

When we have come into a revelation of who we are in Christ our words will bring life, not death, they will build up and not destroy. They will deposit truth and not steal.

That is why it is important to look at Romans 14:17 it says “the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking.” It’s not just meat and drink.

It’s not based on symbols, rules and regulations, but grace and righteousness.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 9:10** (NIV)

¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

Notice it says here in this scripture that food, drink and ceremonial washings are only external regulations.

Until the time of the new order, the new order being – Jesus Christ, and the rule of His Father’s Kingdom.

The kingdom starts in our hearts when we are born again.

The message of the kingdom is that Jesus is not coming to change a system, but to change the hearts of man, because out of the heart the mouth speaks.

We all have good works and good endeavours to try and satisfy God. But we can only please God when we have a change of heart and an understanding of true righteousness.

Understanding that it is a gift given to man from God Himself.

Scripture

- **Luke 6:45** (NIV)

⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Jesus said, He is the way the truth and the life. We should be doing things His way and not our interpretation of His way.

Because it is His way that leads us into truth, which brings us into life, more abundant life, not preaching or teaching sets of laws and regulations but bringing people into Kingdom life and understanding righteousness.

So next week we will be discussing Romans 14:17 **again!**