

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:10

Date: August 12, 2012

Title: "Building a Kingdom"

Focus: Embracing God's Kingdom and Will.

Intro:

1. In the Lord's Prayer, among other things, Jesus asks that God's kingdom and will would be done, "on earth as it is in heaven." This is taken as a call that God would have His way on earth like He does in heaven.

2. What is the kingdom and will Jesus speaks about and what is it that opposes it?

Body:

God is Advancing His Kingdom and Will

What is the "Kingdom of God"?

- It is the rule and reign of God in the lives of people.

Romans 14:16-17; (speaking of religious practice) "Do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

- It is personally embraced and discovered daily.

- This kingdom is not to be confused with a formal edifice, organization, or even church. Nor is it some in a far away place or time.

- It is a present reality. It is found here among those who have come to faith in Him. It is recognized as they live their lives in subjection to His rule.

Luke 17:20-21; "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

What is the will of God?

- God desires that everyone join Him in His kingdom. (2 Peter 3:9)

- He wishes that people would unite their kingdoms to His.

- However, to accomplish this He will not compromise His holiness.

People need help realizing His kingdom and will

- In praying, Jesus acknowledges that we struggle with recognizing His kingdom and will.

- Why? Because there are competing kingdoms and wills to consider.

Every person has a kingdom and a will.

Genesis 1:28; "God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Each does his or her best to establish his or her dominion and enact his or her wishes.

- When similar goals and wishes come together, we find systems and larger kingdoms. (societies and governments)

- Motives vary from person to person, some are good, and some are bad. But all are self-serving.

- People need help bringing their kingdoms under the Kingdom of God and submitting their wills to His.

Satan also has a kingdom and will to consider

- His kingdom and will are opposed to God.

- They are characterized by rebellion.

- They deliver loss and death. (John 10:10)

Closing:

1. The Kingdom of God has been on the march since before the beginning of time. Throughout time God has been making the call for people to join His kingdom.

2. Yet people resist, being reluctant to release control over their own kingdoms to bring them into submission to His.