

Kingdom of God Part 6

Steve Berger May 8, 2016

The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God
- The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens. (*heaven*)
- The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now, through our new birth, in order to experience the blessing of God's reign now
- We position for tastes by Spiritual Poverty, Childlikeness, Faith, Obedience, Patience, Prayer, Openness
- Matthew 13 — Mystery of the Kingdom; what the Kingdom is like now is different than what they were expecting
- **Matthew 13:44**
"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
 - The Kingdom is **TREASURE**, that is **worth securing at any cost**.

Today — looking at three words regarding the Kingdom of God —

Treasure, Pleasure, Measure

Treasure

Question — *Why is it considered treasure, valuable beyond all else, worth securing at any cost?*

Answer — *Because of what the Kingdom offers people!*

Abundant Life Right Now

- **John 10:10**
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
 - promises of God, power to live victoriously, power over enemy
- **Promises of God — treasure indeed!**
- **2 Peter 1:2-4**
Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God's power has given us all things — including exceedingly great and precious promises!

- **Colossians 1:13-14 — Remember**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- **2 Corinthians 1:20 — Yes and Amen**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

- time to start living/believing in promises

- **Power to live victorious life — treasure indeed!**

- **Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Power to be difference-making, world-changing follower of Jesus! Treasure!

- **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Power to live above crummy circumstances, personal weakness! Treasure!

- **Romans 6:14**

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Grace, enabling power of God, to live above sin's dominion over you! Treasure!

- **Power over the enemy — delivered from the kingdom of darkness —treasure indeed!**

- **Luke 10:19-20**

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Authority, legal right, and power, to execute authority over all power of enemy and every spirit that opposes! Treasure!

- **Ephesians 6:10-14**

...stand, stand, stand, stand!

Four times STAND against enemy! Because of power over him! Treasure!

- **1 John 4:4**

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

We have overcome every anti-Christ force because of Christ's Presence in us.

**Our abundant life now, is experienced through the promises of God,
the power to live victorious life and power over the enemy!
That's treasure!**

Eternal life later — the treasure of heaven can never be over-exaggerated!

- **Revelation 21**

no death, sorrow, crying, pain

- **Philippians 3:20-21**

resurrection bodies

- **Revelation 5:9**

creating / worshiping

- **Luke 6:21**

laughing

"Joy is the serious business of heaven." ¹ C.S. Lewis

- **Isaiah, Revelation**

animals

- **Revelation 7:15**

serving

- **Revelation 5:10**

reigning

- **Revelation 21:18-23**

beauty — walls, gates, streets, light

- **Revelation 22:3-4**

God Himself

TREASURE!

"Heaven is where the *ahh!* of deep satisfaction and the *aha!* of delighted surprise meet, and they kiss."² Mark Buchanan

**All that abundant life is now,
and what eternal life will be like later is treasure indeed,
worth securing at any cost!**

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Business of Heaven: Daily Readings from C.S. Lewis*, (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1984), 19

² Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, (Tyndale House Publishers, 2004), 394

Pleasure

Question — *Have you ever received a gift from someone where it seemed like they had more pleasure to give it than you were to receive it?*

**That's the pleasure the Father has
when He gives us the treasure of the Kingdom!
He's not a stingy, stogy, withholder!**

- **Luke 12:31-32**

But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

In seeking the Kingdom — *know it's the Father's good pleasure to give it to you!*

- **Luke 22:29-30a**

And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom...

Jesus is bestowing upon us a Kingdom — *where one day we sit, eat, and drink with Him... all three products of a happy, generous benefactor!*

**Because the Kingdom is our treasure to secure
and God's pleasure to give,
we must measure our response to this good news.**

Measure

Right after the parable of the soils — *wayside, stony, thorny, good... Jesus teaches us about measuring our response to Kingdom truth...*

- **Mark 2:24-25**

Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

- same measure you use, God will measure it back to you — wayside, stony, thorny, good soils

It is God's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom — *is it your good measure to receive it?*

- hear, understand, obey — more Kingdom truth given to you
- whoever has — more will be given, **two times emphasized**, "are you listening?"
- whoever doesn't have — even what he has will be taken — not by God — but by enemy, trials, or unholy desires

**We have or don't have,
we get more or lose more,
based on the measure of our response to Kingdom truth!**

Truth — you go from being a mere "**Believer**" to a "**Kingdom Operator**" based on the measure of your response to Kingdom truth!

Kingdom Measure

- hearing to understand and obey... the promises and power...
- bringing my thoughts, desires, attitudes, and actions through the filter of Kingdom truth...
- making adjustments when necessary...
- live like that, you'll be good soil, producing fruit, receiving more from Father

THE KINGDOM — our **treasure** to secure, God's **pleasure** to give, our **measure** to receive!

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the Kingdom of God considered treasure, valuable beyond all else, worth securing at any cost?
2. What is the difference between a "baptized believer" and a "kingdom operator"? Which are you?
3. Which of God's promises for overcoming in life here on earth do you hold on to?
4. Which of God's promises of the treasures in eternal life do you look forward to most?
5. It is God's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom — is it your good measure to receive it?
In *what measure* are you ready to respond?

House of Prayer

**JOIN US —
HOUSE OF PRAYER**

Tuesday, May 10th

6:30 p.m.

sanctuary

**Make your prayer requests
by going to www.gracechapel.org
click on *Prayer***