



October 19, 2014
"THE KINGDOM OF GOD"
John 3:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

- The title of the sermon today is . . . "The Kingdom Of God".

Let me say first of all, I love the Church of Jesus Christ, and I say that with deep thought and sincerity. My intention in preparing and delivering this message is not to disparage belittle, or ridicule in any way the term . . . church.

I have wonderful memories of the church that I attended when I was saved 48 years ago. I would not trade my experience there for anything in the world. And, I would say the same for the four other churches that have been our home churches in the communities we lived in. We have been at Oakhurst Evangelical Free Church for more than 20 years.

It is just that the word . . . "church" . . . in today's world does not seem to reflect a quality of church that Jesus spoke of when He said, "*Upon this rock will I build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.*"

The intention of this message is to give each one of us the opportunity of looking at the Kingdom of God with a seriousness that will cause us to carefully consider our understanding of our purpose in life, and to step up our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and His church.

- I fully realize that a Biblical case, or argument, for the church can be made; and, rightfully so. Many positive things can be said of the Church of Jesus Christ, for which His blood was shed.
 - Colossians 1:18 "He (Christ) is also head of the body, the **church**; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."
 - Ephesians 1:22 "And He put all things in subjection under His (Christ) feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the **church**, . . ."
 - I Timothy 3:14-15 "I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is . . . the **church** of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."
 - Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock (16 Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.) I will build . . . My **church**; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

- Nicodemus approaches Jesus with a question. **John 3:1-16**
 - Identified / Inquisitor: ruler of the Jews; came by night; addresses Jesus as “teacher”; thinking in the earthly sense, rather than spiritual
- Jesus focuses on the spiritual aspect of the Kingdom of God in His reply to Nicodemus.
 - His first reply: “Unless one is born again he cannot see the **kingdom of God.**” (v3)
 - Second reply: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the **kingdom of God.**” (v5)
 - Third reply: A spiritual dynamic that must be seen by a “re-born” eye: **the Kingdom.**(v3,5)

Jesus communicated to Nicodemus . . .

I. The Kingdom: The Sovereignty

- “basi-lei’-ra”: kingdom (v3,5); - power, kingship, *dominion*, rule
 - Not to be confused with an actual kingdom, but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom.
- Sovereignty: - “supreme authority”
 - “freedom from outside interference and the right to self-government”
 - I Chronicles 29:11-12; Job 42:2; Isaiah 46:9-10; Eph. 1:11; I Tim. 6:15
- Jesus being referred to as my “buddy” demonstrates a woeful lack of understanding.

II. The Kingdom: The King

- The King revealed: John 3:10-13
- The King redeemer: John 3:14-15
- The King’s relationship: John 3:5-6

III. The Kingdom: The New Birth

- Inspirational: Birth by the Holy Spirit John 3:5
- Irresistible: A holy calling that is grounded in grace. John 3:6
- Invitational: An invitation made personally by the King. John 3:13-14
- Irrevocable: Eternal is . . . forever. John 3:14-16