

Living in the Kingdom **Acts 28.30-31**

October 1, 2006

*“For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance **he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.**” Acts 28.30-31*

You may not have spent very much time this week thinking about the **Kingdom of God**, but let me assure you that the Kingdom of God is worth thinking about. Because not only does the Kingdom of God have *something* to do with how we live in our contemporary culture, it has *everything* to do with the practical affairs of daily life.

For Jesus Christ, the Kingdom was a priority. The Bible teaches us that Jesus’ message was primarily about the Kingdom of God.

*“Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching the good news of the kingdom**, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” Matthew 4.17*

*“This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6.9-10*

*“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about **the kingdom of God.**” Acts 1.1-3*

*“So when they met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore **the kingdom** to Israel?’ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.’” Acts 1.6-7*

In fact, over **eighty times** in the Gospels alone, Jesus refers to the **Kingdom**. The Kingdom of God is certainly a priority for Christ. Therefore, it cannot be overlooked by us.

“They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.” Acts 14.21-22

Romans 14.16-17; 1 Corinthians 6.19-20; 15.20-24; Colossians 1.13; Revelation 11.15; 22.1-4

If you were to read any of these passages in isolation from the others it would lead to an imbalance or a limited understanding. We need the big picture. Once you take care of the whole, the little parts will have a framework to fit into.

The process of biblical unity revolves around what God **wants**. His will, what he wants, as expressed in Scriptures, centers on his created universe, both animate and inanimate. This is where the concept of the **Kingdom of God** comes in, for this seems the way to best describe God’s will or desire as centered in his rule. When we talk about the Kingdom of God, it is important to understand three aspects:

PLACE

This relates to the physical dimensions.

PEOPLE

God is king over people as well as a realm.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The third and most important aspect of the Bible’s focus is God himself.

KINGDOM IMPLICATIONS

*“But seek first his **kingdom** and his **righteousness** . . .” Matthew 6.33*