

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "Making the Move to the Kingdom of God"

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We're in a series on how to survive in the Kingdom of God. We want to examine the precepts and principles that govern the Kingdom of Heaven or the KOG. First it's necessary to see and enter this Kingdom, and then make the move. Are we willing to be made whole?

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." so I want to tell you as plainly as I can what Jesus came to do and all that He has accomplished in His atoning work. His work is finished so far as sacrifice is concerned. Today Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father ever interceding and ruling. He is Prophet, Priest, and King. And He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So as we talk about this, I encourage you to receive Jesus, learn of Him, believe in Him, and believe Him so that you might obey the Gospel and see that it truly is Good News.

Christ's Body. First, let's just listen to some Scriptures concerning the accomplishments of Christ's body; those texts in Scripture where Jesus' body is offered up in sacrifice to God.

For example, Romans 7:4-6, **Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. ⁶But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.** NKJV

The Law is holy, spiritual, and good, but it cannot give Life. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Producer, the Life-Maker. Believers are to bear the fruit of righteousness in the KOG.

Colossians 1:21,22: **And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—** NKJV

Hebrews 10:5-10: **Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:**

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin, You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.' "

Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all [time, never needing to be repeated].* NKJV

I Peter 2:24: “Jesus Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree in order that we might die to sin and live for righteousness, by whose wounds or whose stripes you have been healed.”

Christ’s Blood/ His sacrificial death.

Acts 20:28: Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. NKJV

Romans 3:24-26: Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. NKJV

Romans 5:8-10 But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him! 10 For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!... Berean Study Bible

So we know from Romans 5:9 that true believers have been justified, pardoned, and constituted righteous by Jesus’ blood, the voluntary, substitutionary offering of Himself in the place and for the benefit of those given to Him by the Father. Jesus was sent by the Father to save. He was likewise sent to bear witness to the Truth.

Ephesians 1:7, 8: 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.... Berean Study Bible.

Here, Paul attaches directly to redemption virtually as a synonym, the forgiveness of sin. In Ephesians 2, we find out that we were dead in trespasses and sin but as true believers we are made alive in Christ. We are saved by grace through faith, which is the gift of God and not of works.

Ephesians 2:12, 13: Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.... Berean Study Bible

Gentile Christians who were once far away have been brought near to Christ, to citizenship in Israel, to all the benefits of the covenants of the promise, to hope, and to God Himself by the blood of Christ.

What can we learn from Colossians chapter 1? Well, we learn that God was pleased through Christ to reconcile all things to Himself having made peace through the blood of His cross. And in Hebrews chapter 9 we find that Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all time through His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. And that the blood of Christ will cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death or from dead works so that we might serve the Living God.

We are told in 1 Peter 1 that God's elect were chosen for sprinkling by the blood of Jesus Christ. Christ's death is a sacrificial death, fulfilling the Old Testament type of sacrifice in which the blood of bulls and goats was regularly sprinkled on the persons and objects to be cleansed. It is by His precious blood that we are redeemed from a former, empty way of life. We know that the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. From the book of Revelation, we know that Jesus loved us and loosed us or freed us from our sin by His own blood. Christ purchased for God by His blood people from every tribe and language and people and nation or ethnos and made them for God a kingdom and priest that they will reign on the Earth.

The Cross: What about the accomplishments of the cross? What do we learn from Scripture about that? We learn that God has reconciled both Jews and Gentiles in one body to God through the cross. And then He put to death God's enmity by or on it and that Christ made peace through the blood of the cross. In fact, we know from Colossians chapter 2 that God canceled the written code with its regulations that was against us and stood opposed to us. He took it out of the way, nailing it fast to the cross. And having disarmed rulers and authorities, He exposed them publically, triumphing over them by it.

Jesus' Death: What did Jesus accomplish in His death? Well, Romans 5 tells us that while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son. And again from Colossians, once we were alienated and enemies in our minds as shown by evil works but now God has reconciled us through Christ's death to present us holy and unblemished and blameless in His sight. It was through the suffering of death that we see Jesus, Hebrews 2 tells us, being crowned with glory and honor so that by the grace of God on behalf of all He might taste death. For it was fitting for God in bringing many sons to glory to perfect the author of their salvation through suffering and also that Christ shared in our humanity in order that through His death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

We know that Jesus is the mediator of a New Covenant in order that by means of death as a ransom He sets free from the trespasses under the first covenant, the ones that have been called that they might receive the promises of the eternal inheritance.

So we know that Christ dying produces many seeds that while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. When we were enemies, as sinners, Christ died for us.

In fact Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. **2 Corinthians 5:15, He died for all [true believers] in order that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.**

Why did Christ die? I Thessalonians 5:10 declares that Christ died for us in order that we may live with Him. His whole life work was considered one righteous act of obedience as we are told in Romans 5:18ff.

Jesus' obedience was an active obedience. He lived the life we cannot earn and do not deserve. He paid the penalty for sin to meet the just requirements of the most holy and sovereign God. He was dead and buried, but rose again from the dead on the third day, demonstrating that the Father accepted Jesus' offering of Himself on behalf of those for whom Jesus died. Jesus is the Beloved; true believers are in Christ, in the Beloved.

Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God Almighty, interceding and ruling as Sovereign Savior. He is coming again in power and great glory.

In His atoning work Jesus overcame guilt and liability by expiation; overcame alienation by reconciliation; overcame bondage by redemption; overcame the wrath of God by propitiation; and overcame the kingdom of darkness by the defeat of Satan through the destruction work of atonement.

I hope that we have learned more about Jesus so that we can believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes. Let's pray that we be granted grace to obey this good news of the Gospel, and to put into practice the principles that bring life. This is why Jesus died, that we might live in Him, that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Let's ask for God's grace and power to make the move and let the Lord make us whole.

In closing, I just want to have you consider rejection. You know we've all experienced rejection as we've lived long enough, sometime in our life and we know how painful it is. In fact I often think of it, what it does to the heart; kind of like taking your heart over a cabbage grater. That's how it feels; you are just like a bleeding soul. And yet, Jesus Christ endured our judicial rejection by God so that we don't have to experience the ultimate rejection which is rejection by God Himself. We have judicial acquittal.

Jesus' atonement was an actual atonement. It wasn't imaginary and it wasn't hypothetical. It was a sacrificial death in which Jesus Christ vicariously bore the curse that we deserve. He paid our debt. He endured this judicial rejection by God and He died our death. He actually accomplished and procured everything we need for salvation. And we might say that through His sacrifice, He overcame guilt and liability; and through the cross He made reconciliation possible and overcame alienation. We were alienated from God until the atonement of Jesus Christ that brought our reconciliation. We were guilty until that sacrifice was made. We would know the wrath of God were it not for the propitiation work of Christ on the cross. We would remain in bondage unless Jesus Christ redeemed us and that redemption was accomplished by the Cross work of Jesus Christ.

And the kingdom of evil found its destruction in the Cross work of Christ that we might enter into the Kingdom of God. Have you made the move into the Kingdom? If not, let today be the day. **Here is a prayer you can pray or use as a guide, as the Lord leads.**

Father God, we come before You in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we tell You, Lord Jesus, that we have sinned and we fall short of Your Glory. We have missed the mark. We have trespassed. We've crossed the line. We have transgressed. We have gone in the wrong direction. We have broken the Covenant; we have broken the Law. We have committed treason. We have not believed, and we are sinners, justly deserving Your wrath; being by nature children of wrath. You, Lord God, are holy and just, and must punish sin. We cannot save ourselves.

We acknowledge that "Mother Church" does not save and angels do not save us and we are not saved because someone in our family is saved or people in our heritage were saved. It's very individual. Only Jesus Christ saves. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but by and through Him.

Lord Jesus, forgive us our sins. Forgive us our iniquity, the bent of the heart toward evil. Forgive us our cosmic treason and everything else we have done. May You impute to us Your righteousness, and we thank You that our lives are imputed to You in the life exchange of the Covenant in Your Blood. We are finite and You are the Infinite God-Man who bore the penalty for sin in our place and stead. Grant us repentance that we might recover ourselves from the

snare of the Devil who holds us captive "to do His will". Deliver us and grant us repentance as we acknowledge the truth. Come and dwell in our hearts and be Lord of our lives.

Lord God, grant us that we might believe in Jesus, believe Jesus, and believe what Jesus believes. Grant us grace to believe the Good News of the Gospel. And Lord, we ask that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit, with Your redemption, Your peace, Your Word, with all that is You. Grant that we may bear the fruit of righteousness in the Kingdom of God. Give us eternal life, for the one who has the Son of God has Life. Grant us the grace and power to believe; let us make the move into the Kingdom of God. Translate us from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son, and make us whole. In the Name of Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, Ruler over the kings of this earth, Amen.

Remember that Jesus Christ is Lord. He's Lord over the curse, over sin, death, hell, and the grave. He is Lord over Satan and the world system. Jesus Christ is Lord. Say, "Hallelujah!"

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred/translated us to/into the kingdom of his beloved Son, Colossians 1:13 ESV

2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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