

40-06-05.wpd --Thy Kingdom Come
Christ, King, reign, rulership,
Mat 6:10

The most direct application of the Kingdom of God is personal.

INTRODUCTION:

--George Buttrick's quote: "*The prayer 'Thy Kingdom come,' if we only knew, is asking God to conduct a major operation.*"

--From the time we were small, we were taught to be *for democracy and against dictatorship*. But the biblical concept of a king is that of a sovereign ruler, and when we are praying to God, "*Thy kingdom come,*" we are praying for the Dictatorship of God to be fully realized here on earth and throughout the universe.

--The Bible is a very practical book. It is not generally about the whole universe, but about this planet called "Earth." In its more detailed instructions, it is not about the planet, but the inhabitants of the planet, specifically the people of God. And being a practical book, it includes, not just general guidelines for God's people as a group, but instructions that we, as individuals, are to take personally, as if God was speaking to us directly, and He wants to, and He does. **HOM.idea**

--But as we pray this prayer, "*Thy kingdom come,*" we do so with the knowledge that, in many ways....

I. God's Kingdom Rule Already Exists

A. Throughout this physical universe, all nature obeys His laws:

1. **Scientists** know this about nature and their work involves the discovery of and the accurate description of the laws of nature.
2. **Physicians** are more specialized, and know about the special laws that govern the health of our bodies.
3. **Psychiatrists** are even more specialized, and know about the special laws that govern mental and emotional health.

B. The Creator's laws do not change, as human laws do. [This summer in Brattleboro, a town of 13,000 and one of the oldest Vermont, teens began to take off their clothes and walk the streets or hang out around town dressed only in their birthday suits. Now, Vermont has a long history of skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing. There are no state laws against public nudity, as long as it is not for sexual purposes. No one can stop these young people from using their freedom. Vermont does allow each city to pass its own laws against public nudity, which Brattleboro is now in a debate over. But long before Brattleboro's

dilemma, another law of God was already in place that will stop these teens. It's an unchanging, outdoor dress-code law that punishes every offender, whether their nakedness is publicly visible or not. It's the law of the four seasons. When winter hits in a few months, everyone in Vermont will obey this law, because those who ignore the law will be served the death penalty by freezing.]

TRANS: There are physical laws made by God, like the law of gravity, that people cannot break without consequences. There is no personal choice involved. There are other laws of God, like the Ten Commandments, that people do have a personal choice about and that people do break and sometimes seem to get away with it. When we pray "*Thy kingdom come,*" we are praying that the laws of God as they are obeyed in Heaven be personally obeyed in the same way on Earth. **The most direct application of God's Kingdom is personal.**

II. Jesus Wants God's Kingdom Rule in Everyone's Heart

- A. God's Kingdom was His constant message-- Mat 4:17, From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
- B. Even after His Resurrection, He kept talking about it until He was taken to Heaven-- Acts 1:3b, He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.
- C. He preached it, because it is the most valuable thing that human beings can have in their lives-- Mat 13:45-46, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. [Charles Allen said that "to really pray 'Thy kingdom come,' means I am willing to surrender everything I possess in order to possess God."]
- D. Because surrender to God's rule in our lives must be a daily reality, the prayer, "*Thy kingdom come,*" begins with ourselves [David Livingstone dedicated his life to spreading the Kingdom of God in Africa, but even on the last day of his life, he wrote in his diary this prayer: "My Jesus, my King, my Life, my All, I again dedicate my whole self to Thee."]

CONCLUSION:

--"*Thy kingdom come,*" is an all or nothing kind of prayer with God [Wilbur Rees wrote a prayer for half-hearted Christians: "I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of him to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation; I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please."]

-- As George Buttrick's said, we cannot pray "*Thy kingdom come,*" without "*asking God to conduct a major operation.*"

-- God is King and will never change from being King. "*Thy kingdom come,*" is a prayer for His divine will, His divine rule to change us.