

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD sermons by Rev. George R. Fiddes

### Sermon 4 - EXPERIENCING THE KINGDOM

#### The Blessings of The Kingdom

We have been looking at the idea of the Kingdom of God.

We now come to some of the benefits. Two scriptures provide a background to this. The first is an account in Psalm 84 of the blessings in the House of God:

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!*

*My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

*Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-- a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.*

*Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.*

*As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.*

*Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. Look upon our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one.*

*Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.*

*O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.*

The second is Paul's account from Colossians:

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

The first thing that we hear of Jesus doing in His public ministry is preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. The notion of the gospel is that it is Good News, and the Christian faith is about Good News for all mankind: Jesus' coming to bring us Salvation. I never weary of taking every opportunity to tell people of the Salvation that is offered through Jesus.

As we reflect on that Good News, it is worth remembering that there are real blessings to be gained when we freely submit to the reign of God in Christ Jesus. There are:

Blessings in the Present

1. God's forgiveness – there is redemption: *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1: 14); through the blood of Christ: to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. (Rev. 1: 5.)*  
 This is the start of the gospel and the main purpose for the coming of Jesus into our world that we might be saved from the penalty we deserve for our sins. That is the chief purpose for the coming of Jesus and that is why He went to the Cross. Anyone who tells you otherwise is deceiving you. When we have entered through Christ into that new relationship with God then there are other benefits.
2. We enjoy God's care. – When we submit to God's rule then we benefit from His care: *For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. (Psalm 84: 11) We have no need to have any anxiety over the necessities of life: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? (Matt. 6:25) so long as we seek His Kingdom first: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matt. 6:33)*
3. We are brought into God's Family. When we come to faith we are made members of Christ's body, the church, God's family. (1 Tim. 3:15.) We receive manifold more family (Luke. 18:29-30) .... (Mark 10:29-30)
4. We receive God's Holy Spirit. It is promised to those who believe. He is a source of righteousness, peace and joy. (Romans 14:17; 15:13.) He serves as God's instrumental agent to strengthen us, that we might produce the fruit of a truly blessed life (Eph 3:16; Gal. 5:22-23)

#### Blessings in the Future

1. We will enter into God's Eternal Kingdom (Matt.7:21-23) promised to those who do the Father's will; not just those who talk a good game nor for those who have to do a great deal but for those who have surrendered to Jesus.
2. God's Eternal City – Prepared for those who seek it. (Heb 11:13-16). Like Abraham, and the Old Testament faithful, and Paul, and the New Testament saints. Or, as Revelation puts it, *as a bride adorned for her husband, the Holy city New Jerusalem. (Rev 21: 2)*
3. God's Eternal Presence. They will need no candle neither light of the sun for the Lord God gives them light. (Rev. 21:22-23) The Glory of the Lord illuminates. No more curse and no more night (Rev. 22:3-5) His servants shall see His face and reign.
4. God's Eternal care. – Preventing the reason for sorrow. Rev 21:4. Wiping away all tears, the former things have passed away. Providing our every need Rev. 22:1-2. The river of life flowing from the throne. The tree of life.

We need to start Kingdom living now and look forward to that day when we will know it in all its fullness.

But, how do we become part of it?