

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

CONCLUSION and SUMMARY

These sermons have tried to illustrate that the Kingdom of God is a new way of living under a recognized Head.

This kingdom was brought in by the coming of Christ into the world as part of God's redemptive purpose. We read that "*God so loved that world that He gave His only begotten Son that whatsoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*". (John 3: 16) Jesus came into our world to rescue mankind from the bondage of Satan and to generate a set of people to follow the ways of God, living as 'citizens of heaven' or aliens in this present evil world.

That kingdom is from God: it is spiritual. But it is for people. It is accessed by faith following repentance. It is for those who turn from the world, commit themselves to a new way of life and actively follow the ways of the King. It is the kingdom that can be accessed here, enjoyed now but continues to eternity.

Entrance into that kingdom is by repentance (which means turning away from the worldly life) and faith (which is acceptance of a liberating truth) and the adoption of the new code of behaviour made possible by the resource the King provides by His Spirit.

This is a mystery - an open secret to those who are in the know but total confusion to those who are still in darkness.

There is no automatic entry but it depends on a response to the challenge posed by Joshua: "*Choose this day whom you will serve*". (Joshua 24: 15) The right choice brings peace with God, an experience, a hope in a wonderful privilege and responsibility.

No wonder Paul encouraged the early Christians to think of themselves as "*citizens of heaven*" and also reminded them of the need to "*walk worthy of that vocation*"

In practical terms the church should reflect that very same truth.

It is a collection of people who have turned their backs on the world, trusted in the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, believed the message and endeavour to live a life according to the standards and principles set out in the Bible. That is a real life, it is a spiritual life, which reflects all that God is; and anticipates all that should – and one day will - be.

And so, we pray:

***Our Father, which art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.***