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The KOG Pt 2 Is in righteousness, peace and joy in the Spirit

This is our second study on the kingdom of God (KOG). Last week we established three points from Jesus' teaching- (i) How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the KOG? (ii) those who love the Lord with all their heart...soul...were not far from the KOG, and (iii) Jesus told the chief priest and elders that the harlots would go into the KOG before them. This week we establish three additional points - (i) Philip preached the things concerning the KOG and the name of Jesus Christ (ii) Paul taught that the KOG is spiritual and (iii) Paul had fellow workers unto the KOG.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points -

1. Philip preached the KOG, and the name of Jesus Christ

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized..." (Acts 8:12).

In the early church they exhorted the souls to continue in the faith & through much tribulation enter into the KOG- Acts 14:22- "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God"

Paul disputed with the Jews in their synagogue disputing and persuading the things of the KOG

[6] And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

[8] And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God Acts 19: 6 & 9).

Paul testified the gospel of the grace of God- preaching the KOG

[16] For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus...

[24] But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

[25] And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. (Act 20: 16, 24, 25)

When Paul was in prison in Rome there came the chief of the Jews and he testified of the KOG persuading them concerning Jesus

[17] And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together...

[23] And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus...

[31] Preaching the kingdom of God...with all confidence...(Acts 28:17, 23, 31).

2. Paul taught the church that the KOG is spiritual

The KOG is NOT meat & drink, BUT righteousness, peace & joy in the Holy Ghost

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom.14: 17).

The KOG is not in word, but in power (Holy Ghost)

"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (1Cor 4:20)

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the KOG - 1 Cor.15: 50- "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God..."

The unrighteous shall not inherit the KOG (1Cor.6: 9, 10).

3. Paul had fellowworkers unto the KOG

“And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God...” (Col 4:11).

The persecutions and tribulations that we endure are a token of the righteous judgment of God that we may be counted worthy of the KOG for which we suffer
[4] So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:
[5] Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:(2Thes.1: 4, 5).

Illustration

Ex-Roman Catholics that I have spoken about why they came out have indicated that the hypocrisy, the lies, deceit, fornication were a catalyst for their departure. Many unsaved no doubt look at Rome and the church as a whole (when we take on the traits of the world) and would reject Christianity because of the double standards– do what we say, and not what we do. But we in the body of Christ are to be lights in the world, where– by our works the lost ask a reason of the hope that within us. It is no different when an ambassador speaks on behalf of their king– the ambassadors voice is received as the king’s word – when he himself is not living in the gutter.

Questions of the scriptures

How does Jesus’ teaching on the KOG apply to the church? Are we born again?

Answers from the scriptures

Following our teaching on right division– let us rightly divide the word of God and distribute the Spirit’s teaching to the intended audience.

From a search of the KOG and comparison in the Gospels– the Spirit teaches the Jews

Jesus preached the KOG was at hand– the Jews were to repent, believe (Mk.1:14, 15). He taught His disciples they had to be born again of the Spirit to enter into the KOG. Peter was not yet converted (Lk.22:31,32) and the Holy Spirit not yet given (Jn.7: 39). NOBODY in Jesus’ day was in the KOG.

A wider search of the KOG and comparison of each occurrence the Spirit teaches–

The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost– Acts 2: 2, 3).

The book of Acts– the KOG was preached by Philip & Paul.

Paul (apostle to the Gentiles) wrote of the KOG in his epistles to the churches–

* The Father “hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col.1: 13).

* We are new creatures in Christ– 2Cor 5:17– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...behold all things are new”. To be a new creature where old things are passed away there is a sense of having a second birth (born of God– Jn.1: 13).

* Believers in Christ have the Spirit dwelling in them & they have the joy of the Holy Ghost. Believers are in a spiritual kingdom, where Christ is King (1 Tim.1: 17).

Peter proclaimed that Christians are “born again...by the word of God,..” (1 Pet.1:23).

I will leave you to answer our question above– from the Spirit’s teaching.

What is the practical learning for us from this teaching?

The KOG is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost– and we are ambassadors for Christ (2Cor.5: 20) our King. We are to go forth and beseech the lost to be reconciled to God. Our voice is heard more profoundly by how we live– in the righteousness of Christ, His peace & His joy– bearing these fruits of the Holy Spirit. Imagine if every Christian lived knowing they ARE in the KINGDOM of GOD, and they ARE ambassadors of the KING!

Let us seek to live in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost– in the KOG.