

What Is Jesus' Mission?

The kingdom of God is the good news of the renewal of all creation by the re-entry of God's ruling power through Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Making Jesus' mission clearer with a few questions:

- Doesn't the bible teach that God is always ruling?
- If God is always ruling then what is wrong with the world?
- If God is always ruling, what is the re-entry of God's ruling power ...the kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God

Doesn't the Bible teach that God is always ruling?

Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and *his kingdom rules over all.*

Daniel 4:34-35 34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. *His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.*
35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. *He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"*

The Kingdom of God

If God is always ruling, then what is wrong with this world?

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God,
and that the **whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

There is another authority in this world which is personal (Evil One),
pervasive and anti-God

How does the Evil One exercise his rule?

- The human heart was created by God to worship...to place supreme value on God as the object of our joy, completeness and purpose
- You were made to worship...
...you cannot simply deny the glory of God, you must exchange it for something else....***A GOD SUBSTITUTE***



The Kingdom of God

If God is always ruling, then what is wrong with this world?

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God,
and that the **whole world is under the control of the evil one.**

There is another authority in this world which is personal (Evil One),
pervasive and anti-God

How does the Evil One exercise his rule?

The power of evil in the human heart and human institutions is
to replace God with something else (*IDOL*) as the most important
thing which you are trusting in to give you life...to save you



The Kingdom of God

If God is always ruling, then what is wrong with this world?

How does the Evil One exercise his rule?

The power of evil in the human heart and human institutions is to replace God with something else (*IDOL*) as the most important thing which you are trusting in to give you life...to save you

eg. Marxism....idolizes the state
demonizes powerful, greedy capitalists

Capitalism...idolizes the economy
demonizes state control of the free market

Freudian Psychology ...idolizes unrepressed freedom of the individual to do what brings him or her pleasure
demonizes the repression of the deep desire for pleasure



The Kingdom of God

If God is always ruling, then what is wrong with this world?

How does the Evil One exercise his rule?

The power of evil in the human heart and human institutions is to replace God with something else (*IDOL*) as the most important thing which you are trusting in to give you life...to save you

Every human ideology has an answer to what is wrong with the world and how to fix it....

The answer...to demonize some part of God's creation as the problem and to idolize some part of God's creation as the saving solution

The bible's answer is so different...what's wrong is evil in the human heart which idolizes some part of creation as its saving hope



The Kingdom of God

If God is always ruling, what is the re-entry of God's ruling power....the kingdom of God?

Spirit of the Lord is upon *me*,

For he has anointed *me*;

To preach good news to the poor he has sent *me*:

To proclaim for the captives release,

And to the blind sight;

To send forth the oppressed to release

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

**The kingdom of God is here, because Jesus is here
....to work a great release for those who have no claim
on status or favor with God**



The Kingdom of God

Make it practical for the Lord's Table...

To partake of the table is to publicly declare that you have welcomed the ruling power of Christ into your life

Jesus says that the way that happens is repentance & faith

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. *"The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Repent...a change of mind about the person of Christ

Repent...a change of mind about your need for Christ

Believe...to forsake all trust in your saving efforts and turn in trust to Christ's gift of rescue through his life, death & resurrection



The Kingdom of God

Make it practical for the Lord's Table...

To partake of the table is to publicly declare that you have welcomed the ruling power of Christ into your life

To partake of the table is to publicly declare that you share the work of the kingdom with a kingdom community

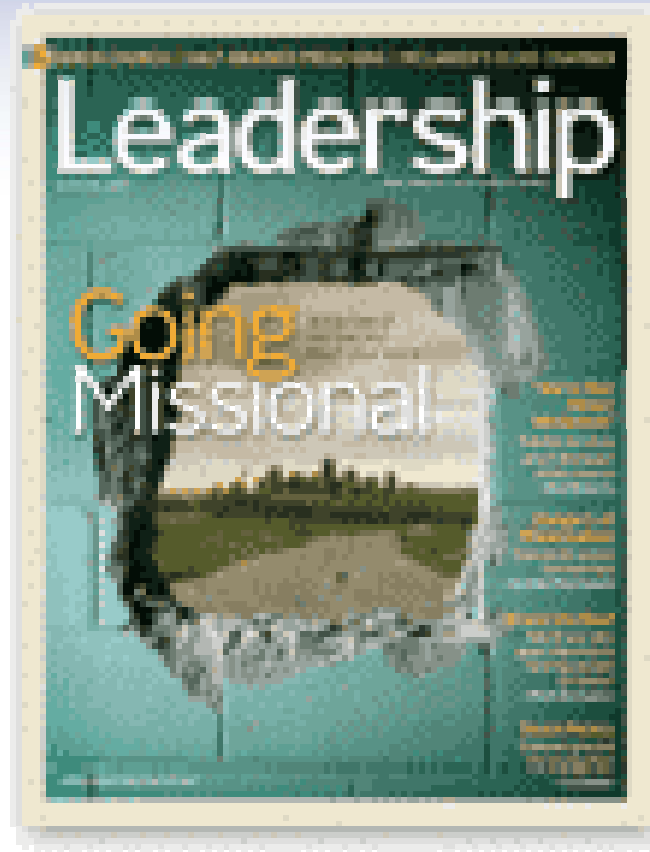
Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Preached in word & deed...message & mercy

When Christ's kingdom gets inside you, the needs of the community are not just a project...they become integrated into your life because the kingdom of God is integrated into your life



The Kingdom of God



The Kingdom of God

To partake of the table is to publicly declare that you have welcomed the ruling power of Christ into your life

To partake of the table is to publicly declare that you share the work of the kingdom with a kingdom community

Where does Christ's rule in your heart want to break a hole in your personal comfort, sending you together with others as an ambassador of his love and power to help & heal a world He has come to fully restore

