

DIVINE PARADOX | Life in God's Kingdom

WEEK 2 - "Domain of Darkness/Kingdom of Light"

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

-Colossians 1:13 (ESV)

The Domain of Darkness

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

- Are you aware of the spiritual struggle between good and evil in our world? What prevents us from being aware of this struggle?
- What are characteristics of the "domain of darkness" that we have been saved *from*? How does it disrupt and distort what God has intended?
- The darkness is not just "out there." Are there areas in my life where I have refused to give God control - "my kingdom" - where I need to repent?

Kingdom of His Beloved Son

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

-Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne."

-Matthew 25:31 (ESV)

- How is a person transferred from living in the domain of darkness to living in God's kingdom of light?
- Where does the Kingdom of God exist? How is it more than "heaven, someday?"
- What is God's intent in providing us a means of entry into His kingdom? What is God ultimately hoping to see accomplished through the expansion of His kingdom?



- How does an understanding of citizenship in God's kingdom change our view on what it means to be a Christian?

Ambassadors of the Kingdom

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

-Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

- How do our good works serve to expand the Kingdom of God?
- Is there evidence of God's kingdom on display in your life? Could you be accused of living in a way that communicates your desire to see light overtake the darkness?
- Understanding that God is the one who does the actual *work* of building His kingdom, how can I participate in *revealing* God and his Kingdom?
- What enables and empowers us to be ambassadors of this Kingdom?

Scripture for further study:

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 3:1-24
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Matthew 25

