



“We Believe...” Great Truths of the Christian Faith

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The Church and the Kingdom

April 14, 2019

Dr. Glen G. Scorgie

Theme: We continue our “We Believe” series this week by considering the closely-related doctrines of the church and the kingdom. Here our focus shifts from “I” to “we,” from personal salvation to broader social dynamics that are also part of the Good News. The reconciling passion of Christ, and the uniting impulses of the Holy Spirit, generate a very special, mysterious union amongst those who belong to Christ. And then Jesus goes on to invite all of us who are part of this community to join Him in a cause greater than ourselves—the kingdom of God. This can infuse our everyday lives and ordinary endeavors with purpose and eternal significance.

Outline:

Introduction

PART A: THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

A gathered community of shared allegiance and purpose

1. The Nature of the Church: What It Is
2. The Mission of the Church: What It Is to Do
 - a. Worship God
 - b. Edify Its Member
 - c. Proclaim and Model the Gospel

- d. Minister Grace to the World
 - e. The Significance of the “Corporate” Factor
- 3. Keys to the Health and Growth of the Church
 - 4. Why the Church Is Good News

PART B: THE KINGDOM OF GOD¹

The benevolent reign of God, within which humanity flourishes and persons become fully alive

- 1. The Nature of the Kingdom
- 2. Learning to Dance
- 3. Advancing and Living the Kingdom
- 4. Why the Kingdom is Good News

Conclusion: God’s Gifts of Community and Purpose

Takeaway: Jesus Christ created a unique community—a place to belong—called the *church*. Then He committed Himself to be present within it, and to protect and provide for it always. Now He invites us to receive this God-gift of community, and to be involved in it and committed to it, just as He is. The kingdom of God is not quite the same thing. It is a hidden reality that God has launched, that is present and advancing as we speak, and that will someday encompass every inch of human society and culture. To live according to kingdom ways, and to contribute to the kingdom’s progress, are keys to experiencing purpose and meaning in our lives.

Next Cove:

Date: April 28, 2019

Title: The Final Restoration

¹ Glen G. Scorgie, *The Scope of Kingdom Work: A Christian Vision of Society, Culture and the Life to Come* (St. Paul, MN: Bethel University, 2019).