

The Kingdom

Subjects in the Kingdom

Philippians 3:18-21

The Kingdom: God's comprehensive rule over all creation.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are..." **1 John 3:1a**

"For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Philippians 3:18-21

Main Idea: Subjects in the Kingdom Are Under the Rule of Its Eternal King

Two Types of Kingdom Subjects in Philippians 3:18-21

I. Those in Rebellion Against the King

"For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things."

Philippians 3:18-19

"I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live as if there isn't and to die to find out that there is." **Albert Camus**

Those in Rebellion Against the King...

- **Live in Conflict with the King:** Enemies of the Cross of Christ
- **Live in Imminent Danger of Destruction:** End is destruction
- **Live in Slavery to Impulse:** God is their belly
- **Live in Pride over Sin:** Glory in their shame
- **Live in Obsession with the Present:** Minds set on earthly things

II. Those in Submission to the King

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Philippians 3:20-21

Those in Submission to the King...

- **Live in the Blessing of the King:** Citizens in good standing.
- **Live in Fearless Optimism for the Future:** We await a Savior
- **Live in Freedom from Sin's Power:** Christ's Power at Work in Us
- **Live with a Focus on the Kingdom:** This life is temporary.

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

Hebrews 13:14

"Getting into God's kingdom is through conversion, but experiencing God's kingdom in your daily life is through commitment. Commitment results only when the Jesus you placed your faith in is also the Jesus who rules within you in the kingdom of which you are a part." **Tony Evans, The Kingdom Agenda**

The Kingdom (all creation) is the King's (God's) house. It operates according to his rules and his good pleasure. We must adjust...

God's desire for you in his Kingdom is to be a faithful subject. But because of your sin, you cannot make this transformation on your own. Only God can do this through you.

"But that is not the way you learned Christ! Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." **Ephesians 4:20-24**

In God's kingdom, the rebels can become the faithful in an instant!

"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
And the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..."

Psalms 95:1-8a

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *The Kingdom Agenda* – Tony Evans (2013)

