Sermon Title: This Heavenly Kingdom

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15–23
Theme: Christ the King Sunday

Sermon Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Jon reminds us that Jesus Christ is King—not simply over the life to come, but over all creation, here and now. As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that our ultimate identity is found in Christ. While we may identify ourselves by our families, communities, and country, our most important identity is that we are citizens of heaven and followers of Jesus.

Christ's kingdom operates differently from the kingdoms of this world. Rather than ruling through political power, domination, or control, Jesus demonstrates His authority through self-giving love, sacrifice, service, truth, and justice.

Through Ephesians 1:15–23, Paul describes the blessings we receive as members of Christ's kingdom: wisdom to know God, hope in His calling, the riches of our spiritual inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of His power working within us.

We are also reminded that the church is the body of Christ, with Jesus as its head. As His followers, we become His hands and feet in the world, sharing His love, serving others, and helping bring hope where there is despair, love where there is hatred, and unity where there is division.

Ultimately, living in Christ's kingdom changes how we see ourselves, how we treat others, and how we approach everyday life. Instead of living with a mindset of scarcity, fear, or brokenness, we can live with gratitude, hope, and the confidence that God's love will ultimately prevail.

Main Points

1. Christ Is King Over All

- Jesus is the supreme spiritual ruler over all creation.
- His kingdom is not defined by earthly power or political influence.
- Christ rules through love, sacrifice, service, truth, and justice.
- His authority extends over all times, places, and circumstances.
- Our ultimate identity and citizenship belong to Christ.

2. We Are Called to Grow in Wisdom and Understanding

- Knowing Jesus is an ongoing relationship, not a one-time experience.
- We continually grow in our understanding of who Christ is and what He desires for our lives.
- Through the Holy Spirit, we gain wisdom and discernment.
- We learn to recognize God's will and understand how His Word applies to our daily lives.

3. Christ Gives Us a Hope That the World Cannot Take Away

- The eyes of our hearts are enlightened to the hope of God's calling.
- We know that God is greater than the brokenness, pain, and evil in the world.
- The struggles we experience are temporary in comparison to Christ's eternal reign.
- We are called to be people of hope who point others toward Jesus.

4. Our Inheritance in Christ Is Greater Than Earthly Wealth

- Our inheritance is not measured by money, possessions, or earthly success.
- Through Christ, we receive forgiveness, new life, and salvation.
- We become part of God's eternal story and the community of believers.
- Our true riches come from belonging to Christ and participating in His kingdom.

5. God's Power Works Through Us

- Christ's power is greater than any earthly authority or power.
- Jesus demonstrated His power through humility, sacrifice, and ultimately His death on the cross.
- When we offer our gifts, time, and abilities to God, He uses them to make a difference.
- Through our actions, God can move people from despair to hope, hatred to love, and division to unity.

6. The Church Is the Body of Christ

- Jesus is the head of the church, and we are His body.

- We become His hands and feet in the world.
- Our words, actions, love, and service allow others to experience God's presence.
- When we submit to God's will and choose to love God and our neighbors, we actively participate in Christ's kingdom.

7. Living in Christ's Kingdom Changes Our Perspective

- We move from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance.
- We recognize how richly God has blessed us.
- We learn to live with gratitude rather than focusing on what we lack.
- Worship, faith, and obedience help us experience the fullness of life in Christ.