



# Northside Proclaimer

*Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord*

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

November 23, 2014

## “The Unplanned Church” Part Three

*Bryan Garlock*

We’re studying the doctrine of Premillennialism. If you haven’t read the previous articles, I would encourage you to do so.

Last week we noted that the church was a part of the eternal plan of God. That is, the church was always in the mind of God for eternity past. This week, we want to examine Scripture and notice that the kingdom and the church are essentially the same thing.

Isaiah prophesied, “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (2.2-3).

Premillennialists agree this passage is speaking of the coming kingdom (though to be fulfilled in the future, they say). While it is true of the coming kingdom (which has been established), this passage also teaches of the coming church. In the simplest way I can possibly explain this passage in reference to the church please notice the following.

First, the “house of the Lord” is referred to by Paul as “the church of the living God” (1 Tim. 3.15). Second, the prophecy “all nations shall flow to it” was fulfilled in Acts 2.5. Third, the prophecy “for out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” was repeated by Christ in Luke 24.44-49 and fulfilled in Acts 2.14-41, 47. This passage, therefore, teaches the church and the kingdom were both established at the same time and place.

Furthermore, Jesus claimed that of the church He *planned* to build that “...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16.18). Daniel prophesied this of Jesus’ coming kingdom (see Dan. 2.44). Coincidence? I say providence of God! *Continued on back...*

Northside  
*church Of Christ*

25 Greenfield Pike  
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!  
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock  
Office: 937.393.3634  
Cell: 478.256.0325  
preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

## Announcements

- Sister Sharon lost her home to a fire. Please contact her to find out what she needs and pray for her family
- Remember John Blair
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible today, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM
- Teen's Bible study / Kid's drill canceled next week
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Bible study this Tuesday canceled
- Coming soon: Young family / couples' Bible study (1<sup>st</sup> of year)
- Remember the spiritual sick among us

God "will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed" (Dan. 2.44). Of Jesus' church "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16.18). The Hebrew writer stated, "...let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken" (Heb. 12.28). Never destroyed, shall not prevail against it and cannot be shaken all refer to the church and to the kingdom. Therefore, according to Hebrews, to receive one is to receive the other!

Next, Jesus promised, "...I will build my church..." (Matt. 16.18). Now, Premillennialists believe Jesus made this promise after He was rejected, and therefore decided He would set up this thing called the church instead. You see, "the church was a substitute for the kingdom," in the mind of the Premillennialists.

Interestingly, in the same passage Jesus promises to build His church, He also promises to give Peter the keys of the kingdom (Matt. 16.19). Not only does He use the two terms interchangeably, but also Peter was going to have those set of keys in his lifetime. This proves that the kingdom and the church are the same and that the kingdom was established in the first century. Two truths Premillennialists must pervert.

God's infinite wisdom is shown in the culmination of the kingdom and church. If one will allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, he or she will find the establishment of both entities to be spelled out on the pages of His Word.

Note that Jesus foretold of His coming kingdom. He spoke, "...Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power" (Mark 9.1). Later, Jesus reaffirmed this power to the apostles, "...[b]ut you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1.8). Finally, this power was sent when "...suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2.1-4).

According to Jesus, the kingdom was established on the day of Pentecost. According to Luke, the author of Acts, the church was also established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2.41, 47). Coincidence? Again, I say providence of God!

No wonder the church and kingdom are future until Acts chapter two in which *every* passage dealing with the two *is* present. Hence, the apostle John could be *in* the kingdom (present tense) during the first century (Rev. 1.6-9) and also in the church (Acts 2). The kingdom is not, nor will it ever be, a future establishment! Just ask John!

We have not dealt with every passage concerning the kingdom and the church, but we hope the above has given the inquirer a better understanding of the truth. Jesus promised that all who would be "born of water and the spirit" would enter the **kingdom of God** (John 3.3, 5). Those who would be born again were born again on the day of Pentecost, that is, the day the **church** began (Acts 2.1-47; cf. 1 Peter 1.22-23). Won't you be added to the church of Christ and enter the kingdom of God today by being born again? BG