

The Spiritual Kingdom

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Olumuyiwa ASAOLU (asaolu@yahoo.com)

TEXT: John 18:36-37 *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

INTRODUCTION: The world and every society is an economic, social and political order. People struggle for material success and dominance “by any means necessary” believing it is ‘the survival of the fittest.’ Even in religion which entails the worship and service of God, people bring their worldly and carnal perceptions and concepts. *The Lord Jesus from the beginning emphasized the spiritual nature of his kingdom. He stressed that it is not worldly in origin, nature and purpose -Mt 16:15-19, Jn 18:36-37.*

THESIS: Before, during and after the Lord’s personal ministry, people have always misconceived the nature of His kingdom – Mt 2:1-12, Jn 6:15, Acts 1:6-8, Acts 17:7. It is a perpetual struggle for even Christians to fully realize and prioritize the spiritual nature of His kingdom or church! Note these features:

1. We enter the kingdom via a spiritual birth NOT the natural birth –Jn 3:1-7, Col 1:13, 2 Thess 1:5
2. We have ALL spiritual blessings in Christ as citizens of the kingdom -Eph 1:3 & 2:19-22. God promised to meet our [basic] material needs NOT to provide ALL wants and whims –Mt 6:33, Phil 4:19, Heb 13:5-6.
3. We are a spiritual house offering spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet 2:5) and as a body partake of spiritual teachings (1 Cor 2:13), spiritual songs (Eph 5:19) and spiritual meals (1Cor 5:8 & 10:1-7). Unfortunately, some in the church focus too much on material buildings, inspirational talks/human philosophy, non-spiritual songs and parties. They advocate social reform and revolution from the pulpit, think the church is one big charity organization and attempt to make her derail from the divine mission.
4. Christians are spiritual people (or are supposed to be!) – 1 Cor 3:1-3, Gal 6:1 and are engaged in spiritual warfare (2 Cor 10:3-5, Eph 6:10-13, Rm 12:18-21), spiritual service and social responsibility (Rm 12:1-2, 1 Tim 2:1-2, Mt 5:14-16), spiritual reign (Eph 2:1,6 & Rm 5:17) and expect spiritual rewards (Jn 17:1-3, 2Cor 5:1-4)

CONCLUSION: If you are not yet a member of the kingdom there is no need to delay. You need to accept the Lordship or rulership of Christ who is reigning NOW on the spiritual throne of David –Acts 2:30-35. That is done via faith, repentance, confession of His name and baptism into His body, the church –Acts 2:36-41.

Hebrews 12:28 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 2 Corinthians 7:1* *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*