

## **"CHURCH, AND THE KINGDOM"**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

Many people contend that the theory of dispensational pre-millennialism is correct. They listen to many preachers on TV who are gifted speakers. They contend that Jesus came to this earth more than twenty centuries ago with the express purpose of establishing His kingdom. However, because he was surprisingly rejected by the Jews, He postponed the kingdom plan, and in the place of the kingdom, He set up the church. There is no support in the Scriptures for this idea. In other words – this is a false doctrine. Some Scriptures which give warnings about false teachings are:

- 1) I John 1:1 records that **there are false teachers who appear to be religious**. The Bible warns that one must "check them out or be misled.
- 2) Matthew 15:9 records that some false teachers lead others falsely by teaching the **traditions** (rules and commands) of man.
- 3) I Timothy 4:1-3 states that in latter times **some will depart from the faith** and turn into false teachers.
- 4) II Timothy 4:3 gives forewarning concerning those promoting false teachings, by rejecting sound doctrine and **seeking that which is not God's**.

As He wrote in Colossians, Paul contends that he and the brethren whom he addresses had been "translated" (KJV) or "brought" (NIV), ( note the past tense form of the verb) out of the power of darkness "into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (1:13). This is the kingdom of Christ. From the apostle's vantage point, the kingdom was not a future (millennial) promise, but rather a present actuality

Compare with this John's declaration that he was a "participant" in the kingdom with the Christians of Asia Minor (Rev. 1:6,9;5:10). Thus, may it be understood **THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH ARE THE SAME**.

**Plainly, don't get short changed.** Be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible, in Acts teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In The Church (2:47)

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