THE COMING KINGDOM OF CHRIST

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

The Coming Kingdom of Christ

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2025 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.

The Coming Kingdom of Christ

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 6:9-10
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1688

Matthew 6:10 says, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven…” There will come a day when God’s will shall be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. In this passage, Jesus teaches us to pray for the Coming Kingdom of Christ. It is the Kingdom of God’s government, where God rules and reigns. The purpose of prayer is for God’s will to be done. Therefore, effective prayer is finding the will of God and getting in on it. Adrian Rogers says, “God wants for you what you would want for yourself if you had enough sense to want it.”

God has given us principles by which we can know His will:

- **Surrender:** Surrender is more than simply committing to the Lord; it is renouncing control. We'll never know God's will until we are willing to say “Thy will be done.”
- **Scripture:** The Word of God contains the will of God. His word is His revelation to you.
- **Spirit:** The Holy Spirit helps us understand the word of God and articulate our prayers.

This is our confidence: When we pray in the Spirit, any prayer that the Holy Spirit lays upon our hearts will be answered. Adrian Rogers says, “The prayer that originates in Heaven certainly is not going to be rejected there.”

The coming kingdom of Jesus Christ is the Kingdom of God’s grace. Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us. (Titus 3:5-7)

It is also a Kingdom of God’s goodness. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. *He is so good*.

Finally, it is the kingdom of God’s glory. God will be glorified here upon this Earth. The Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

His kingdom has not come yet on Earth. His will is not being done on Earth, *but it will be*.

Life Application

Have you surrendered to the will of God? As you pray today, consider praying this simple, yet powerful, declaration: “thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.”

The Coming Kingdom of Christ

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 6:9-10
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1688

1) INTRODUCTION
   a) Matthew 7:24
   b) Matthew 6:9-13
   c) Today, God's will is not being done in Earth as it is in Heaven.
      i) The rape, pillage, arson, murder, blasphemy, pornography and debauchery that take place on Earth is not God's will.
   d) There is coming a day (and our Lord taught us to pray for it) when God's will will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven.
      i) Right now, man has enshrined himself in his nuclear glory.
         (1) His effort has been to dethrone God and enthrone himself.
      ii) But there is a God in Heaven, and His kingdom is coming.
   e) What is the kingdom of God?
      i) What is the kingdom that we are praying for?
   f) In today's message, we look at four specific things about the kingdom of God.

2) IT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT (MATTHEW 6:10)
   a) The kingdom of God's government is the kingdom where God rules and reigns.
      i) It is the place of God's sovereign authority.
   b) The purpose of all prayer is found in Matthew 6:10.
      i) "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done."
      ii) Would you like to be effective in your prayer life?
      iii) Would you like to pray so as to get your prayers answered?
         (1) Then, this verse is the absolute key.
   c) What is effective prayer?
      i) Effective prayer is not talking God into doing something He does not want to do.
      ii) Effective prayer is not bending God's will to fit your will.
      iii) Effective prayer is finding the will of God and getting in on it.
         (1) There is nothing that lies outside the reach of prayer but that also lies outside the will of God.
   d) 1 John 5:14-15
      i) This is the key to answered prayer.
      ii) In this passage, John picks up on what the Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:10.
      iii) Praying in the will of God doesn't mean fewer blessings for us.
         (1) Praying in the will of God means more blessings for us.
            (a) God wants for us what we would want for ourselves if we had enough sense to want it.
      iv) John said that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
         (1) And Jesus said that we are to pray for His will to be done.
   e) God has given us three principles whereby we can know His will and know that we are praying in His will:

i) The surrender principle
   (1) We will never know God's will until we are willing to know His will, and are willing to say, "Not my will, but Thine be done."
   (2) James 4:3
   (3) The key word in American Christianity is "commitment"; it replaced the word "surrender".
      (a) When you commit, you are in control.
         (i) The thing that you commit to may be good, fine, and noble.
            1. You may commit yourself to soul-winning and prayer.
            2. You may commit yourself to do many things.
            3. But you decide what you are going to do and commit yourself to it.
      (b) When you surrender, you lift both hands and say, "I'm under Your control."
         (i) In surrender, God is in control.
   (4) Why does anyone serve another?
      (a) A son serves because he wants to.
      (b) A servant serves because he needs to.
      (c) A subject serves because he must.
   (5) God does not reveal His will to rebels.
      (a) It is an insult to say that you want to know the will of God, but you are not willing to do the will of God.

ii) The Scripture principle
   (1) John 15:7
      (a) "You abide in me" is surrender.
      (b) "My words abide in you" is Scripture.
   (2) The Bible contains the will of God.
      (a) It is God's revelation to us.
      (b) It is God's Word to us.
   (3) To know the will of God, we have to spend time in the Word of God.
      (a) The Word of God was specifically written to do the following:
         (i) To show us His will.
         (ii) To reveal His will to us.
         (iii) To unfold His will to us.

iii) The Spirit principle
   (1) Romans 8:26-27
   (2) The Holy Spirit of God helps us to understand the Word of God and helps us to articulate our prayers in the will of God.
   (3) 1 John 5:14
      (a) The prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven.
         (i) We just close the circuit.
   (4) When we pray in the Spirit, we can be absolutely certain that any prayer that the Holy Spirit lays upon our hearts will be answered.
      (a) The prayer that originates in Heaven will not be rejected there.
         (i) That is the reason the Bible tells us to pray in the Spirit.
   (5) To pray in the Spirit, we must be filled with the Spirit.
      (a) We will not be filled with the Spirit until we surrender.
   (6) "Prayer is the Holy Spirit finding a desire in the heart of the Father, putting that desire into our hearts, and then sending it back to Heaven in the power of the cross."

3) IT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S GRACE (HEBREWS 4:16)
   a) Hebrews 4:16
      i) God rules from a throne of grace.
         (1) This throne is not a throne of law or judgment.
   b) The kingdom of God is the kingdom of God's government, but it is also the kingdom of God's grace.
      i) If it were only the kingdom of God's government, then all we could think about would be the awesome majesty, glory, and unapproachableness of the thrice holy God.
         (1) How could we ever dare come?
   c) The Bible says that we can come right to the throne of grace.
      i) Hebrews 4:16
      ii) Our faults don't keep us from coming to the throne of grace.
         (1) It is our faults and our need that bring us to the throne of grace.
         (2) Don't stay away because you have faults.
            (a) Come and find mercy.
         (3) Don't stay away because you are weak.
            (a) Come and find help.
      iii) It's not a throne for receiving tribute.
      iv) It is a throne for dispensing grace.
   d) The grace of God does not do away with the sovereignty of God's government.
      i) It only magnifies it.
   e) If you want God's grace, then you may have it; but you will never buy it.
      i) Titus 3:5
      ii) Ephesians 2:8-9
      iii) The King's grace and the King's goodness are not for sale.
   f) Hebrews 4:16
   g) Ephesians 2:7
      i) One of these days, all of the vain toys of this world will not mean very much to you.
         (1) All that will really matter is God's amazing grace.

4) IT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S GOODNESS (ROMANS 14:17)
   a) Romans 14:17
      i) That's what the kingdom of God is.
         (1) Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
   b) Three marks that you are in the kingdom:
      i) Righteousness
         (1) If you want to know whether someone is saved or not, see if that person is righteous.
         (2) Has Christianity changed your life?
            (a) If your religion hasn't changed your life, then you better change your religion.
               (i) You don't have the New Testament religion.
      ii) Peace
         (1) Peace with God and the peace of God.
         (2) Philippians 4:7
      iii) Joy

(1) 1 Peter 1:8
(2) Nehemiah 8:10
(a) The mark that the King is on His throne is joy.
(i) This is our strength.

c) When we pray "Thy kingdom come," this is what we are praying for:
i) The kingdom of God's government.
(1) He is sovereign.
ii) The kingdom of God's grace.
(1) He is merciful.
iii) The kingdom of God's goodness.
(1) He is so good.

5) IT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S GLORY (MATTHEW 6:9-10)

a) Matthew 6:9-10
i) This prayer has not yet been answered, but it will be.
b) God will be glorified here upon this Earth.
c) The Babe of Bethlehem is going to be the sovereign King of the whole Earth.
i) When Jesus Christ came into this world, the angel made this birth announcement:
(1) Luke 1:32-33
(a) "The house of Jacob" here is not talking about spiritual Israel but literal Israel.
(i) "Jacob" is never a term that is used for spiritual Israel but always for natural Israel.
(ii) This is talking about the earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.
ii) Jesus Christ will rule one more time here on Earth.
(1) He will literally rule here on Earth where He was born, where He ministered, where he was crucified, where He was buried, where He rose, and where He ascended.
(2) Jesus Christ is literally, actually, visibly, and bodily coming back to this Earth.
iii) He will reign on Earth.
(1) Habakkuk 2:14
d) Jesus Christ would not have taught us to pray this prayer if it would not be answered.
i) His kingdom has not yet come on Earth.
ii) His will is not being done on Earth, but it shall be, because our Lord taught us to pray that.
e) Today, Jesus is an outcast in the world of government, education, and society.
f) Psalm 2:1-6
i) "Why do the heathen rage?"
(1) Rage is what you do when you don't know what else to do.
ii) "Vain" here means "foolish".
iii) "His Anointed" means "His Christ".
(1) This is the Hebrew word in the Old Testament for the New Testament word "Christ".
iv) "The rulers take council together."
(1) They pool their ignorance against the Lord and against His Christ.
(a) The Ten Commandments cannot be posted in public school rooms, but contraceptives may be given out.
v) "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh."
(1) It is not the laugh of humor; it is the laugh of irony.
vi) "The Lord shall have them in derision."

(1) They have laughed at Him.
(a) He has been the butt of their jokes.
vii) There is coming a day of wrath.
viii) But the beautiful part in verse six is the word "yet".
(1) God has set His heart on this.
(2) When God gets ready to enthrone the Lord Jesus, like people playing checkers, He will move His Son into king's row and say, "Crown Him."
ix) The holy hill of Zion is where Jesus was crucified.
(1) The Lord Jesus, in Zion, is going to reign.

g) 1 Timothy 6:15
i) When Jesus was carrying His cross, the women were weeping and lamenting.
(1) Jesus stopped and said, "Do not weep for Me; weep for yourselves. This is your hour; My hour has not yet come."
(2) Luke 23:27-31
ii) His time is coming.
(1) In His time and in His hour, He shall show who is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the blessed and only Potentate.

h) Revelation 11:15
i) Jesus is not going to a four-year inauguration.
(1) He is going to an eternal coronation.
(a) He shall reign forever and ever!

6) CONCLUSION

a) The Lord Jesus has a kingdom.
i) It is the kingdom of God's government.
ii) It is the kingdom of God's grace.
iii) It is the kingdom of God's goodness.
iv) It is the kingdom of God's glory.

b) Revelation 22:20

c) Matthew 6:9-10

d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
i) Romans 3:23
ii) Romans 10:9-10
iii) Romans 10:13
iv) Acts 16:31
v) John 3:16

The Coming Kingdom of Christ

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 6:9-10
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1688

Be finding in God's Word Matthew chapter 6 if you would please. We've been speaking, teaching, and preaching through the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus Christ, after He gave this wonderful, wonderful sermon, said in Matthew 7 verse 24, "Whenever anyone hears these words of Mine and does them, he's like a wise man that built His house upon a rock." Therefore, we're calling this series "Building Upon the Rock." Today we come to that passage we call "The Lord's Prayer". Actually, it's the disciple's prayer, because He taught them how to pray. He Himself never prayed for forgiveness of sin, but forgiveness of sin is mentioned in this prayer. So, therefore, to be absolutely specific, it is a prayer for the disciples. But, listen to it, Matthew chapter 6 verses 9 through 13, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." I want to direct your attention this morning to Matthew 6 verse 10, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven." The title of the message, "The Coming Kingdom of Christ."

Now is there anyone hear who would dare say that today, God's will is being done on Earth and in Earth as it is in Heaven? Do you think that the rape, the pillage, the arson, the murder, the blasphemy, the pornography, the debauchery that takes place on Earth today is God's will? No it is not. But there is coming a day, and our Lord taught us to pray for it, that God's will will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven. But right now man has enshrined himself in his nuclear glory and his effort has been to dethrone God and enthrone himself. It's almost as if you can hear them praying, "Our brothers which are upon the Earth, hallowed be our name. Our kingdom come, our will be done, for there is no God in Heaven." But friend, there is a God in Heaven and His kingdom is coming. And the title of the message is "The Coming Kingdom of Christ."

Now, that brings a question: what is the kingdom of God? What is the kingdom that we're praying for? May I tell you that it is four things! Number one: the kingdom is **the kingdom of God's government**. Do you have it? It is the kingdom where God rules. It is the kingdom where God reigns. The kingdom of God is the place of God's sovereign authority. And therefore what is the purpose of all prayer. What is the purpose of prayer? Well, you have it in Matthew 6 verse 10, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." Would you like to be effective in your prayer life? Would you like to pray so as to get your prayers answered? Verse 10 is the absolute key. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."

What is effective prayer? Effective prayer is not talking God into doing something He doesn't want to do. Effective prayer is not bending God's will to fit our will. Effective prayer is finding the will of God and getting in on it. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." And so, friend, there's nothing that lies outside the reach of prayer, but that lies outside the will of God.

Now put in your margin this verse, First John 5 verses 14 and 15. And here's the key to answered prayer. Listen to it, the Apostle John picks up on what the Lord Jesus Christ said here in Matthew 6 verse 10, and here's what the Apostle John had to say. First John chapter 5 verses 14 and 15, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him," are you listening, "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask Him

anything according to His," what "His will. He heareth us: and we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know, we know that we have the petition we've desired of Him."

You say, "Do you mean Pastor Rogers that the only prayer that I can pray is the prayer that is in the will of God? Well, that leaves out so many things." No, friend. Praying in the will of God does not mean fewer blessings for you. Praying in the will of God means more blessings for you. You see, God wants for you what you would want for yourself if you had enough sense to want it. God loves us, God loves us, and so therefore, the Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of God's government, where we pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."

Now, that brings us to another question. The Apostle John said, "If we ask anything according to His will He hears us." And Jesus said we're to pray for His will to be done. How do we know His will? Do we just guess at it? Does God say, "Well, you may hit it lucky? Maybe it's My will and maybe it's not?" No. God has given us principles whereby we can know His will and know that we're praying in His will.

May I tell you what they are? Three: here are the principles so you can know that you're praying in the will of God. Number one is **the surrender principle**. Now you'll never know God's will until you're willing to know God's will, until you're willing to say "Thy will be done. Not my will, but Thine be done." There is the surrender principle. Have you completely, totally, surrendered to Him? The Apostle James says in James 4:3, "You ask and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you might consume it upon your lust."

I told you some weeks ago about being in Romania and talking with Pastor Josef Tson, a true intellectual. He was my translator. After a while, after I felt comfortable with him and he with me, I said, "Josef, would you just tell me something?" He said, "What, Adrian?" I said, "You've been to America many times. Tell me about American Christianity." He said, "Well you asked me to, and I'll tell you." He said, "Adrian, the key word in American Christianity is the word commitment." I said, "Well, that's good isn't it Josef?" He said, "No, that is not good." He said, "Commitment is a relatively new word in the United States." He said, "Oh, it can be found in some dictionaries, but he said it came into usage in the 60's and Americans have gotten stronger and stronger and stronger in using the word commitment. American Christians." I said, "Well what's wrong with commitment?" He said, "I'll tell you what's wrong." He said, "When a new word comes in, it always moves out an old word. It replaces an old word." He said, "I searched to find out what was the old word that commitment has replaced." And he said, "The old word is surrender; now pay attention. The new word commitment; the old word surrender. Now, when you commit, you are in control. The thing that you commit to may be good and fine and noble and wonderful. You may commit yourself to soul-winning. You may commit yourself to prayer. You may commit yourself to sacrifice. That's all well and good, but who decides? You do. I am committing myself to this. You may commit yourself to lose weight. You may commit yourself to do many things. You decide to do something and therefore you commit yourself to it."

But he said, "In surrender, there's a difference. In commitment you decide what you're going to do and commit yourself to it. When you surrender, you lift both hands and say, 'I'm under Your control.' Do you see the difference? Do you see the difference? In commitment, you're in control. In surrender, He is in control. He is the King and He is supreme and what we do is to say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." I am under Your control.

Why does anybody do anything? Why does anyone serve another? A son, because he wants to. A servant, because he needs to. But a subject, because he must. God is sovereign. God is absolutely sovereign.

Do you want to know the will of God? Do you? I mean, do you? Would you like to pray and know that you're in the will of God? Well, God does not reveal His will to rebels. Have you ever totally, honestly, sincerely, with all of your heart, with every inch, with every ounce, with every nerve, every fiber, as much as in you is, said, "Thy will be done?" Have you? Then, if you have not, don't complain that you don't know the will of God. Don't you think that it is an absurdity and don't you think it's a contradiction and really don't you think it's an insult to say I want to know the will of God, but I'm not willing to do the will of God.

You see, step number one, in knowing the will of God, is the surrender principle. Another principle. The surrender principle and **the Scripture principle**. Now, let me give you another verse of Scripture. Here, the Bible says, in John chapter 15 verse 7. Jesus said, "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, then ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." You abide in Me; that's surrender. My words abide in you; that's Scripture. You take the Word of God, this book contains the will of God. This book is the Word of God. This print is God's revelation to you. It is God's Word to you. Do you want to know God's will? Do you? You say, "Oh, I'd like to know the will of God?" Test: how much time do you spend in this book? Do you think God really believes you when you say, "I want to know the will of God", and yet you don't read the one book above all books that God has specifically written to show you His will, to reveal His will to you, to unfold His will to you. Don't you think that there's a little bit of hypocrisy in a person who says, "God I want more than anything else to do Your will", and yet he does not study the Word of God to find out what the will of God is.

Third principle. First one, the surrender principle. Second one, the Scripture principle. The third one, **the spirit principle**. Now, listen, let me give you another verse of Scripture. Romans chapter 8 verses 26 and 27, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts," listen, "He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the mind of the Spirit," now here's the key, Romans 8:27, "because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." There it is. Surrender principle; "I want to know Your will." Scripture principle; it's found in the Word of God. Spirit principle; the Holy Spirit of God helps you to understand the Word of God and helps you to articulate your prayer in the will of God. That's the way to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done."

You see, this is the confidence that we have in Him. If we ask Him anything according to His will, He heareth us. Thy will be done. Thy will be done. Answered prayer is not for rebels. The prayer that gets to Heaven is the prayer that starts in Heaven. We just close the circuit. You see, you can be absolutely certain when you're praying in the Spirit, any prayer that the Holy Spirit lays upon your heart will be answered, because the prayer that originates in Heaven certainly is not going to be rejected there. That's the reason it's so important over and over and over again, the Bible tells us to pray in the Spirit. To pray in the Spirit. And to pray in the Spirit, you must be filled with the Spirit. And you're not going to be filled with the Spirit until you surrender. It is all linked together.

I heard a beautiful definition of prayer. I love it. It's my favorite definition of prayer. May I give it to you? Prayer is the Holy Spirit finding a desire in the heart of the Father and putting that desire into our hearts and then sending it back to Heaven in the power of the cross. Did you get it? Prayer is the Holy Spirit, finding a desire in the heart of the Father, putting that desire into our hearts and then sending it back to Heaven in the power of the cross. So, what is the kingdom of God? It is the kingdom of God's government. "Thy will be done."

Second thing I want you to notice as we talk about the kingdom of God. Not only is it the kingdom of God's government, but it is **the kingdom of God's grace**. Look if you will, now in Hebrews chapter 4. Take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 4. Let me show you a wonderful passage that I meditated on and I think really just brought tears to my eyes, and as I thought about it, as I prayed myself. Look in Hebrews chapter 4 and verse 16, "Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace." Don't you love that! A throne. It speaks of His kingdom. It's speaks of His rule. Where does He rule from? What kind of a kingdom is it? What kind of a throne is it? Is it a throne of law? Is it a throne of judgment? No! It is a throne of grace. Two more wonderful words could not be put together, a throne and grace. The kingdom of God is the kingdom of God's government, but it is also the kingdom of God's grace. Because if it were only the kingdom of God's government, all we can think about is the awesome majesty and glory and splendor. And unapproachableness of the thrice holy God. How could we ever dare come? But the Bible says that we can come right on. We come right to a throne of grace. One, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You say, "Do my faults keep me from coming to a throne of grace?" No, my dear friend, it's your faults that bring you to throne of grace? It's your need that brings you. Don't stay away because you have faults. Come and find mercy. Don't stay away because you're weak. Come and find help! When you're praying for His kingdom to come, not only is it a kingdom of God's government, it is the kingdom of God's grace. It's not a throne for receiving tribute. It is a throne for dispensing grace. And, you see my friend, the grace of God does not do away with the sovereignty of God, God's government. It only magnifies it.

Years and years ago, I heard or read somewhere of a woman who lived in a foreign country where they had a monarchy and this woman was a very poor woman and she had a daughter, and the daughter had gotten sick. The daughter was at home and this poor woman had to go out and do her work. But somehow in the sick daughter had said to her mother, "Mother, do you know what I think would make me feel better? If I just had some fresh fruit to eat." Fruit was very expensive, almost unobtainable. "If I just had some sweet luscious grapes. Mamma, I just think they'd make me feel so much better."

That mother had that in her mind as she went down the cobblestone streets, and as she was passing a very impressive building, a mansion-like building, a palace. She looked and there was an iron fence, ornate, wrought iron. And behind it was a garden, and in that garden was a trellis, and from that trellis there was suspended a gorgeous grape vine. And on that grape vine, they were just coming down in big clusters of beautiful grapes. And she thought, "Oh, I have few shillings, maybe, they would sale me a cluster of grapes.

And she noticed that the gate was open and almost fearfully she pushed the gate open and she went into this most gorgeous, beautiful garden and she's looking at those grapes, and someone says to her, "What are you doing in here?" She turned around and there was the gardener. He said, "Did someone leave the gate open? You must get out of here in a hurry. You have no right, you have no business in this place. You must leave!" She said, "I was only wanting to know, I was not trying to steal anything. I just wanted to know if perhaps I could buy a bunch of grapes for my daughter who is sick?" He said, "I'm sorry, these grapes are not for sale. You must leave. This is the king's garden."

And as she turned in her fear and started out to the gate, she heard another voice saying, "Wait a minute, stop right there." And she turned around to look into the face of her king. He said, "Tell me again, what were you doing here?" Oh, she said, "Sovereign", she said, "I'm sorry. I did not mean to intrude. I did not know this

was the palace. I am sorry. All I wanted was a bunch of grapes for my daughter who is sick. Please!" And she's backing away. And he said, "Wait a minute, don't be afraid. It's all right. Come here." He said, "Gardener, hand me those shears." He said, "Hold out your apron." She held it out and he began to clip off big clusters of grapes and load her down, one cluster after another. She said, "Oh no, that's more than I can pay for." Oh, he said, he said, "You cannot buy these grapes." Oh, she said, "But I must pay for them." And he said, "If you must pay for them, you cannot have them. The only way that you can have them is to receive them as a gift from your king. The king's grapes are not for sale."

Friend, I want to tell you, when I heard that story, I thought how much like the grace of God that is. If you want God's grace, you may have it, but you'll never buy it. Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us." Ephesians 2:8 and 9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is," what, "a gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast." The king's grapes, and the king's grace and the king's goodness is not for sale. What is this kingdom? It's a kingdom of God's government. He is sovereign. But is a kingdom of God's grace. We come to a throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I was so blessed when precious Emily stood here and sang, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch" and that wonderful stanza that says, "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun." The Bible says in Ephesians 2:7, "That in the ages to come He's going to show the riches of His grace." One of these days folks, all of the vain toys of this world won't mean very much to you. When the setting sun of your life mingles with the purpling dawn of eternity and you've laid down the toils and the toys of this world and your loved ones stand around your casket, all that will really matter then is God's amazing grace.

Thy Kingdom come. It is the kingdom of God's government. It is the kingdom of God's grace. I tell you what else it is. It is **the kingdom of God's goodness**. When you're praying for the kingdom to come, for God's will to be done in Earth as it is in Heaven, what kind of a kingdom is it? Let me give you another verse to put in your margin. Are you ready for it? Romans chapter 14 and verse 17. I meditated on this and I can tell you what a blessing it is. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." That's what the kingdom of God is. It's a kingdom of God's government. It's the kingdom of God's grace. And it's the kingdom of God's goodness. Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Are you in the kingdom? Are you? Well, if you're in the kingdom, these are three marks that you're in the kingdom. Number one, **righteousness**. You want to know whether a man is saved or not, just see if he's righteous. Is he righteous? I don't care how loud you shout or how high you jump. I want to know how straight you walk when you come back down. Has this thing called Christianity, has it changed your life? If your religion hadn't changed your life, you better change your religion. Or you don't, you don't have the New Testament religion. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink. It's righteousness." But not only righteousness, **peace**, peace with God and the peace of God, and peace that passes understanding. That's the kingdom that you're praying for to come. And it's the kingdom of **joy**, the kingdom of joy.

Let me go back to Josef Tson for a moment. When I was preparing this sermon, I thought of what he told me also. He said, "Adrian." He said, "Back in the seventies, I was in my study, I was pastoring a church near Bucharest." And he said, "I was in my home when suddenly at my door, there came seven secret police, the Securitate, the communist soldiers. They came into my house and said we're going to search your house." And he said, "They turned my house upside down. They were looking for any kind of literature, anything

that I might have in my house that they could interpret as being against the government, so they could put me in prison or maybe put me to death." And he said, "They went through our house, just looking, turning everything over." You know they don't have the kind of a Constitution we have to keep soldiers just from breaking into your house and searching.

Then he said, "They went into my study and began to go through every book that I had." Now you know a Pastor's books are very precious to him. They're like friends to him. They went into his study and they began to go through my books, looking for something that could be interpreted as being against the government. Perhaps some time, some kind of anti-communist literature that might be there. And he said, "They wanted to use it all for evidence against me. So, they took every book and made me sign on the flyleaf that this was found in my study. One book after another, they were taking down, I had to sign it." He said, "It was miserable."

He said, "I'd not signed many books when they laid a book before me. Do you know what the title of the book was? "Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory"." He said, "You cannot believe what a miserable day this was, and there was the title of that book, "Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory". And the subtitle was this, "Are you experiencing it now?" "Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory: Are you experiencing it now?" And he said, "Oh God, Your joy! Yes I am experiencing it now. Greater than all of this is Your joy." He said, "I knew that the joy of the Lord was to be my strength, and I said to Elizabeth, "Elizabeth," that's his wife, "these men are guest in our home, make some coffee for them, would you please? And serve them coffee." And he said, "From that moment on, I was in control. No matter what else was happening? I was in control, and my King was on His throne and the mark that my King was on His throne was joy and it was my strength!"

"The kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." That's what you're praying for when you pray, "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come." The kingdom of God's government; He is sovereign. The kingdom of God's grace; He is merciful. The kingdom of God's goodness; He is so good. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

But there's one last thing I want to mention that you're praying for. When you're praying, "Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," where, "in Earth as it is in Heaven." That prayer has not yet been answered. But friend it will be answered, because the kingdom of God is the kingdom of God's government. It is the kingdom of God's grace, it is the kingdom of God's goodness, and it is **the kingdom of God's glory**. Let me tell you something friend, God is going to be glorified here upon this Earth. He is going to rule here on Earth. The babe of Bethlehem is going to be the sovereign King of the whole Earth.

When Jesus Christ came into this world, the angel made this birth announcement. Put this verse down in your margin, Luke 1 verses 32 and 33. I want you to listen to it. Here's what the angel said about the baby that was born. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him," listen, "the throne of His father David: The throne of David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Now, when he says the house of Jacob, he's talking there not about spiritual Israel, but literal Israel. The house of Jacob. Jacob is never a term that is used for spiritual Israel, always for natural Israel. We're talking here about the earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Did you know that Jesus Christ is going to rule one more time here on Earth? Did you know that? I mean literally rule, here

on Earth where He was born, here on Earth where He ministered, here on Earth where He was crucified, here on Earth where He was buried, here on Earth where He rose, here on Earth where He ascended, to this Earth Jesus Christ is, listen, is literally, actually, visibly, bodily coming back to this Earth. Do you believe that? I hope you do.

Friend, He is going to reign on Earth. "And the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea," that's what the prophet said in Habakkuk 2:14. Do you think that Jesus Christ would have taught us to pray this prayer if it would not have been answered? His kingdom has not come yet on Earth. His will is not being done on Earth, but it shall be, it will be, because our Lord taught us to pray that. Today, Jesus Christ is an outcast in the world of government, in the world of education, and in society.

May I show you my favorite Psalm? At least it is this morning. Turn to Psalm 2. If this does not set your heart on fire, your wood is very wet. Psalm 2 verses 1 through 5, "Why do the heathen rage?" I'll tell you why. Rage is what you do when you don't know what else to do. "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine of vain thing." Vain means foolish. "The kings of the Earth set themselves, and the rulers take council together, against the Lord and against His anointed." That means against His Christ. That's the Hebrew word in the Old Testament for the New Testament word Christ. "The king's of the Earth," the high muckety-mucks, "set themselves." I see them as they square their jaws in rebellion, "and the rulers take council together." They pool their ignorance, "against the Lord and against His Christ, saying, 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Can't even post the Ten Commandments in our school rooms; you can give out condoms. Telling you one thing dear friend, this condom nation is headed for condemnation. "Let us break their bands asunder." "We don't want the Lord and we don't want His Christ."

Well, continue to read verse 4, "He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh." It's not the laugh of humor, it's the laugh of irony. "The Lord shall have them in derision." They've laughed at Him. He's the butt of the late night jokes. This nation is laughing its way into Hell but it won't laugh its way out once it gets there. "The Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure." There's coming a day of wrath.

But here's the beautiful part. In my Bible, I've got one little word circled in red. It's verse 6, "Yet," boy, that's a great word, "Yet, yet," in spite of the ravings, and the rantings, and the mouthing's of the agnostics, the atheists, the humanists, the ungodly, the perverts, "Yet, yet, yet, have I sat My King upon My holy hill of Zion." Don't you love that? God has set His heart on this my dear friend. Yet, when God gets ready to enthrone the Lord Jesus like people playing checkers, He's going to move His Son into king's row and say, "Crown Him! Crown Him!" "Yet, have I sat My King upon My holy hill of Zion." I love that. You know what the holy hill of Zion is? That's where they crucified Him. Friend, that's where He's going to reign. The Lord Jesus in Zion is going to reign. God has set His heart on it. How exciting is this! When we're praying, "Thy kingdom come", it's the kingdom of God's glory. Since I gave you my favorite Psalm for this morning, let me give you my favorite verse for this morning. First Timothy chapter 6 and verse 15, "Which in His times, He shall shew, who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords." In His time.

Read Luke chapter 23 verses 27 and 28, when Jesus was carrying His cross, the women were standing there weeping and lamenting and Jesus, carrying that cross stopped and looked up, said, "Don't weep for Me. Weep for yourselves, this is your hour. My hour has not yet come. This is your hour. My hour has not yet

come." His time is coming. "Which in His time, in His hour, He shall show who's the King of kings and the Lord of lords; the blessed and only potentate." His kingdom, my friend, is a kingdom of glory. And I love what Brother Jim sang this morning about the Lamb enthroned in Revelation chapter 11 and verse 15, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in Heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.'" Friend, He's not going to a four-year inauguration; He's going to an eternal coronation. Hallelujah! He shall reign! He shall reign! He shall reign! He shall reign! He shall reign forever and ever and ever and ever! "Jesus shall reign where the sun doth His success of journeys run, His kingdom spread from shore to shore 'til moon shall wax and wane no more."

He has a kingdom, it's a kingdom of God's government. It's the kingdom of God's grace. It's the kingdom of God's goodness. And it's the kingdom of God's glory. I can hardly wait for the King to come, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." When we'll do what we sang about in that first hymn, "Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne."

Let's pray. Lord, we want to join the saints of the ages to pray as You've taught us to pray, "Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, in Earth as it is in Heaven." In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Look up here. Just look at me for a moment, let me tell you something friend. It is absolute folly, absurdity and hypocrisy for you to pray, "Thy kingdom come", unless you've allowed the King to come into your heart. Is He the King in your heart? God doesn't take rebels to Heaven. You're saved by grace, for the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Would you like to make Him Lord of your life this morning? Would you like to receive Him into your heart? Would you like to come today to a throne of grace and obtain mercy and help? You say, "Oh, I'm a sinner." Well that doesn't keep you away; that's the reason you can come. You can find grace and help. And I promise you on the authority of the Word of God, if you receive Jesus, He will save you today. Every sin will be forgiven. He will come into your heart and give you a new nature and begin to make you the person He wants you to be. And one day, perhaps sooner than you realize, He'll take you to Heaven.

What is your part? Your part is to bow before Him as Lord and trust Him as Savior. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." The Lord; bow before Him. Jesu Christ, Savior; trust Him, and you will be saved. I promise on the authority of the Word of God.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."

2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38133 | (901) 382-7900