

## 22T09L Kingdom of God-Paul

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table We have been talking about the most prominent topic in the New Testament, the kingdom of God. I know many of you are probably surprised by that. In fact, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven more than any other topic, more than all other topics combined. The obvious next question is what is the kingdom of God. Actually, Jesus starts much of His teaching with the phrase, “the Kingdom of God is like, or the kingdom is”

But what, where, when is the Kingdom of God. Now that is the right question. And I know the Bible has the answer. Today I want to look at what the Apostle Paul had to say about the kingdom of God. I have heard many say Paul did not preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. They often say Paul preached the gospel of grace. Salvation through faith. So, let’s see what Paul said in the Bible about the kingdom of God. There 15 scriptures in which Paul specifically uses the phrase kingdom of God.

- Acts 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23; 28:31
- Colossians 4:11
- Ephesians 5:5
- Galatians 5:21
- Romans 14:17
- 1 Corinthians 4:20; 6:9-10; 15:50
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your good news. Lord use me to share your message. If I say something in error, please let them remember what you wanted them to hear, not my errand words. Help us not to be confused by the many voices and opinions we hear. May we stay focused on your word Lord. Guide our discussion. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

I think the best place to start is the Acts of the Apostle which Luke wrote to tell the story of the early church and especially the story of Paul.

Acts 14:21-23 (NIV) <sup>21</sup>*They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to **enter the kingdom of God**, they said. <sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

Paul is telling them things they will experience to enter the kingdom of God. Acts 19:8-9 (NIV) <sup>8</sup>*Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively **about the kingdom of God**. <sup>9</sup>But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.*

Don’t race over this one. For three months Paul argued with people in the synagogue about the kingdom of God. Not about Jesus death and resurrection. Things pertaining to the kingdom of God which would have included the death and resurrection of Jesus but also many other things. Acts 20:25(NKJV) *“**And indeed,***

*now I know that you all, among whom I have gone **preaching the kingdom of God**, will see my face no more*

Paul says he has gone among them preaching the kingdom of God. Preaching the kingdom of God. And in Acts 28:23(NKJV) <sup>23</sup>*So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and **solemnly testified of the kingdom of God**, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.*

Paul testified to them of the kingdom of God concerning Jesus, the law of Moses and the prophets. All of this is the kingdom of God. Then in Acts 28:30-31 (NKJV) <sup>30</sup>*Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>**preaching the kingdom of God** and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him*

Preaching to them the kingdom of God including things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. So over and over in Acts, Paul says he preached the kingdom of God. Paul preached all things pertaining to the kingdom of God. So that is a quick look at Acts. But what about Paul's letters, I'm sure people are says. Okay let's look and see.

Colossians 4:10-11 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup>*Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), <sup>11</sup>and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only **fellow workers for the kingdom of God** who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.* Paul says his fellow workers for the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:1-7(NKJV) <sup>1</sup>*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. <sup>3</sup>But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup>neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup>**For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partakers with them.* Paul is telling us what we do and how we act right now in this life will determine if we have an inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21(NKJV) <sup>19</sup>*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*** Again, Paul is telling us what we do and how we act right now in this life will determine if we have an inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Romans 14:14-18 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup>*I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. <sup>15</sup>Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup>**for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** <sup>18</sup>For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

Here Paul is warning us not to make others stumble on purpose. If we know someone holds a strong belief, we need to be sure not to provoke them as long as those beliefs do not interfere with serving Jesus. If we intentionally provoke each other, then we may be acting evil, not likely to reach the kingdom of God by doing evil.

1 Corinthians 4:18-21 (NIV) *<sup>18</sup>Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup>But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. <sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. <sup>21</sup>What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?* Paul is addressing some problems in Corinth. But he is clearly referring to teachings he had given them about the kingdom of God.

Later in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV) *<sup>7</sup>The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? <sup>8</sup>Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters. <sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that wrongdoers **will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup>nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God.** <sup>11</sup>And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.* Paul is reminding the people of Corinth and us, that people that do things that are wrong in the eyes of God are not part of the kingdom of God. Our behavior matters. If you are intentionally doing wrong, you should not imagine that you have any part of the kingdom of God.

Finally in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (NKJV) *<sup>50</sup>I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood **cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”* This is a reference to the end of the age when Jesus returns.

Lastly the two letters to the Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (NKJV) *<sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; <sup>11</sup>as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, <sup>12</sup>that you would **walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.* How we behave matter. As Christians what we do and how we do it matters. We are to act in a way worthy of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:5 (NIV) *<sup>5</sup>All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result you will be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God**, for which you are suffering.* Again, Paul says nearly the same thing in this letter. How we behave matter. As Christians what we do and how we do it matters. We are to act in a way worthy of God.

**Let us pray. Heavenly Father. Thank you for you. You only are worthy of praise. You alone are king of kings. Help us to recognize you as the king of our lives. Help us to live like we know it. As your followers, we are active parts of your kingdom. The kingdom of God. I pray that we act like it.**

**Every day in every moment. Thank you, Jesus, for what you did for me or all of us. We pray in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Let me leave you with this. Paul said he preached the kingdom of God, all things concerning Jesus, the law of Moses and the prophets. Over and over Paul spoke about the kingdom of God. How we should act, what we should do. Our behavior matters. Paul was fully committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus. The gospel of the kingdom of God.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope you will join me as we study and learn about the Kingdom of God in this series. If you liked the message, please click like. And please share the link with a friend. Send me comments to my email on the screen

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.