

GENERAL SUBJECT:
LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS THE REALM OF THE DIVINE LIFE

Message One

The Kingdom of God as the Realm of the Divine Life

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:15; John 3:3, 5, 15-16

I. The kingdom of God is God Himself—Mark 1:15; Matt. 6:33; John 3:3:

- A. God's kingdom has God as its content; God Himself is everything as the content of His kingdom—1 Cor. 4:20; 15:28.
- B. God's reign in us is a matter of the innate ability of the divine life—Rom. 8:2.
- C. The life of God is the kingdom of God and also our entrance into the kingdom of God; we must see this basic principle—John 3:3, 5, 15.
- D. The nature of the kingdom of God is divine because it is the kingdom of *God*.
- E. The Lord Jesus said, "The kingdom of God has drawn near"; to proclaim that the kingdom of God has drawn near is to declare that God Himself has drawn near and that we should get ready to receive God into us—Mark 1:15.

II. The kingdom of God is the realm of the divine life for this life to move and govern so that life may accomplish its purpose—John 3:3, 5, 15-16:

- A. The kingdom of God is an organism constituted with God's life as the realm of life for His ruling, in which He reigns by His life and expresses Himself as the Divine Trinity in the divine life—v. 5; 15:1-8, 16, 26.
- B. The kingdom of God is God in Christ as the totality of life with all its activities—11:25; 10:10b; 14:6.
- C. The unique way to enter into the kingdom of God is to receive God as life and gain God Himself; this is regeneration—3:5, 15; 1 John 5:11-12:
 - 1. The kingdom of God is a divine realm to be entered into, a realm which requires the divine life; hence, for us to see or enter into the kingdom of God requires regeneration—John 3:3, 5.
 - 2. Because through regeneration we receive the divine life, the life of God, regeneration is the unique entrance into the kingdom—vv. 3, 5, 15.
 - 3. We have been born into the kingdom of God, and now the divine life in our spirit knows the kingdom of God—vv. 5-6.

- D. The kingdom of God as the realm of the divine life is the realm of the divine species, in which are all the divine things—John 3:3, 5:
1. God became man to enter into the human species, and man becomes God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to enter into the divine species—1:12-14; Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4.
 2. To enter into the divine realm, the realm of the divine species, we need to be born of God to have the divine life and nature—John 1:12-13:
 - a. We were regenerated of God to be the species of God and enter into the kingdom of God—3:3, 5.
 - b. Our second birth caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God; now we are God-men in the divine species, that is, in the kingdom of God.