

Message Two

The Kingdom of God as the Growth of the Kingdom Seed

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:3, 11, 14, 26-29

- I. The New Testament reveals that the Triune God has been incarnated in order to be sown into His chosen people and then to develop within them into a kingdom; this is the intrinsic element of the entire teaching of the New Testament—John 1:14; Col. 2:9; Mark 4:26-29; Rev. 11:15; 21:2.
- II. Those who live in the kingdom of God have God as their life; God lives in them, through them, and out of them, and thus they express God—Phil. 1:21a.
- III. The kingdom of God is Christ Himself as the seed of life sown into us, growing in us, spreading in us, and maturing in us until there is a full harvest—the manifestation of the kingdom—Mark 4:26-29; Matt. 13:43:
 - A. This is revealed in the parable of the seed in Mark 4:26-29.
 - B. The kingdom of God is actually the God-man, the Lord Jesus, sown as a seed into the believers and developing into a realm over which God can rule as His kingdom in His divine life—Luke 17:20-21; Mark 4:3, 26-29.
 - C. The Lord Jesus, who is the embodiment of the Triune God, came to be the kingdom of God by sowing Himself as the seed of the kingdom into God's chosen people—Col. 2:9; Luke 17:20-21; Matt. 13:3-23.
 - D. Christ establishes the kingdom by sowing Himself as the seed of life into believing people so that the kingdom may grow; this is absolutely a matter of the growth in life, not of our work—1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 3:9; Matt. 13:4.
 - E. Regeneration is the entrance into the kingdom of God, and the growth of the divine life within the believers is the development of the kingdom of God—John 3:3, 5; 2 Pet. 1:3-11.
 - F. The seed of the kingdom is Jesus, and the development of the seed in the aggregate of the believers is the kingdom—Rom. 14:17.
 - G. After this seed has been sown into the believers, it will grow and develop within them into the kingdom of God, which is for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose and also for their blessing and enjoyment—Col. 1:13.

IV. The development of the kingdom within us is our entering into the kingdom of God—2 Pet. 1:3-11:

- A. To enter into the kingdom of God is a matter of growing Christ inwardly—Gal. 4:19.
- B. Apparently, it is we who enter into the kingdom of God; actually, the entrance into the kingdom of God is supplied to us richly by the Lord through our growth in life and through the development of the divine life within us—2 Pet. 1:3-11.
- C. We should be diligent to pursue the growth and development of the divine life within us until we are richly and bountifully supplied the entrance into “the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”—vv. 5, 11.