

The Promises of God - Lesson 14

Introduction:

1. In our study of God's promise to establish His kingdom, we have:
 - a. examined prophecies from the Old and New Testaments that relate to its establishment
 - b. shown from the fulfillment of these prophecies that it was established in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - c. shown that Jesus is presently reigning over it at the Father's right hand in heaven
 - d. pointed out from 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 that Jesus will deliver it to the Father when He returns.
2. Matters pertaining to God's kingdom are so important that they were addressed by such great teachers as:
 - a. Jesus (Acts 1:3)
 - b. Philip (Acts 8:12)
 - c. Paul (Acts 19:8).
3. In this lesson we are considering some additional matters that are revealed in the Bible.

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE IDENTIFIES THOSE WHO WILL ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM
 - A. Certain people will not be allowed to enter the kingdom.
 1. Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 13:23-29
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 3. Galatians 5:19-21
 - B. To enter the kingdom, a person must:
 1. be "*poor in spirit*" (Matthew 5:3) as illustrated by the publican (Luke 18:13)
 2. be "*converted*" (Matthew 18:1-4; 19:13-14)
 3. be "*born again*" (John 3:3,5)
 4. be "*translated*" [transferred] into it (Colossians 1:13-14; 2:12-13; Acts 2:47).
- II. THE BIBLE REVEALS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM
 - A. In general, members of God's kingdom must submit to the will of the King.
 1. Jesus is King (1 Timothy 6:15), and the New Testament is His Word (Hebrews 9:15).
 2. Members of God's kingdom must know Jesus' Word and only say and do those things He authorizes (Colossians 3:16-17).
 - B. Two specific matters include:
 1. seeking God's kingdom "*first*" (Matthew 6:33)
 2. serving others (Matthew 20:20-28; 25:34-40).