

Eynsford Baptist Church

Thy Kingdom Come?

The most well-known Christian prayer is framed by two references to God's kingdom. It begins with the words,

Your kingdom come...
and it ends with *Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory....*

Jesus, when he spoke these words, was speaking to Jews to whom this "kingdom-speak" was familiar language. They knew what he was talking about – although it became clear as time went on that some of their thinking needed adjusting.

But what do *we* understand by the phrase when we say those words? My impression is that most people are not very clear.

When Jesus talked about the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven", he wasn't talking about Heaven – although there is clearly a connection. He wasn't talking about the church either, although that's obviously connected too.

So, what exactly was he talking about and does it really matter? And, if it does matter, what is its relevance to our busy and complicated lives in the 21st century?

It's my conviction that this is an important issue, although it does not receive the attention it deserves, understandably because it is simply too big a subject to unpack and explore in our sermon slots in our Sunday services.

For this reason, we at EBC will be setting aside some time for some monthly Bible teaching meetings, on the first Friday of each month, for an hour starting at 7.30 pm with light refreshments from 7.00. If any of our friends from other churches would like to join us, *you would be most welcome*. The first session will be on Friday October 3rd.

A final thought. Jesus talked about the "kingdom" constantly but only two occasions are recorded when He mentioned the "church". We, on the other hand, talk rarely about the kingdom but frequently mention the word church referring both buildings, organisation and people. Does that mean we are missing something? Perhaps we're talking about the same idea but with different words? Or perhaps for cultural reasons it's just not a good word to use nowadays? If this intrigues, puzzles, stimulates or even disturbs you, why not join us for the first session and take it from there?

Chris Moffett
Pastor

Church Notices

Services Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Everyone welcome!

Coffee morning - Saturday October 20th, 10:30-12:00 in aid of the Prison Fellowship which through its volunteer members supports prisoners and their families, in particular enabling prisoners to send presents to their children at Christmas.