

Sermon Title: Everlasting Kingdom

I can't believe that this is the last service of 2021

- The end of the year normally brings reflection.
- You can't talk about 2021 without talking about COVID
- The overarching sentiment in America today is "You can't tell me what to do."
- How are you doing right now with all the changes that have taken place over the last 2 years? _____

We have had a lot of change over the last 2 years, but that was still nothing compared to the change that the disciples experienced over their three years with Jesus.

But because of all the change that the disciples witnessed in those three years, and them witnessing the resurrection after all of that, Jesus was establishing something that would never ever change or end, his eternal kingdom.

- Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God more than any other topic in the gospels.

Dan 7:13-14, Isaiah 9:7

You can see in those passages a clear point, that the coming Messiah would rule a kingdom not divided by race or ethnicity, and that kingdom would not pass away not be destroyed.

- You can see how the Israelites missed the true meaning of that prophecy if they took it completely literally.

Biblical interpretation:

- The Bible is 1 book, but it is made up of 66 smaller books
- Not all prophecy should be read 100% literally because it uses imagery and metaphor.
- So, if the Israelites thought that Isaiah and Daniel were saying that the Messiah would establish an earthly Kingdom, you can understand why they missed who Jesus truly was.
- Jesus was establishing a heavenly Kingdom, a spiritual one that will have no end.

So what is the Kingdom of God?

- The perfect Kingdom of God is the opposite of all of the imperfect kingdoms of this world.
- Jesus gives us a glimpse into that Kingdom in the Lord's Prayer when he says, "Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
 - The Kingdom of God is a community of believers that comes together to do God's will here on earth as it is done in heaven with no limitations.

So how does God's Kingdom come together on earth?

- That answer is simple, it is through submission.
- We need to make the choice to lay down our own agenda, our own wants, and our own sinful desires and submit our actions and our motivations over to God.
- Plus, we also need to be open to the concept that we might be wrong.

If this sermon series has hit home for you, how should that reality affect us every day of our lives?

1. Changing your motivation from self-interest and gain to following God's will for your life.
 - a. We search out God's will for our lives by reading His Word, prayer, and conversation with other Christians that know us well.
2. Practice daily submitting your will to God's will.
 - a. This will be harder for some people than others based on your life experiences and your personality
3. Start focusing on eternal things and not on temporary things.
 - a. This will take some observation on your part
4. Give glory to God and to share your experiences with others.

Challenge: Start making small day to day changes in your life to be following God's will and not your own.

God has gotten his people through so much, and he will always be faithful to get you through your life as well.

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6. Practice daily submitting your will to _____.
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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Dan 7:13-14: ¹³“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Isaiah 9:7: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.