

Scripture Reading: Revelations 21

Extra Readings: Apostle's Creed & Canons III/IV, 13-14 (pg. 108)

Singing: 199:1-5 – 394:1-3 – 64:1-3 – 407:1-4

OPENING OBSERVATIONS

A. The Kingdom of God is the *life of God's people in every area of living*

1. the saved are 'citizens of the Kingdom of God' (Eph. 2:19)
2. the secret of God's Kingdom is *His Word and Spirit*
3. the calling of those in God's Kingdom (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:14-15)

B. To keep us alert to this call He commands His disciples to pray daily

CHRIST'S TEACHING IN 2ND PETITION

I. Strive for more obedience in all aspects of the Kingdom life

II. Strive for the growth & strengthening of God's Kingdom

III. Strive for the second coming of the King

I. Christ's commands us to strive for more obedience in all aspects of life

A. "Thy Kingdom Come" implies a great truth: *He is the KING!*

1. God is on throne of His universe: Ps. 24:1; 97:1-2; 99:1-2; Is. 40:9b; 52:7; Matt. 29:19; 1 Tim. 6:16

2. That God is on throne of heaven/earth is ***hugely comforting*** (Rom. 8)
 - a. the history of our life is His-story!

b. that truth doesn't explain everything why what happens!

- true wisdom is not *to know all the 'why's of the what's'* but *true wisdom is "Fear God, keep His commandments*

3. That God is on the throne of every detail is also ***hugely important:***

a. we are to do His will in all aspects of our daily living!

B. Therefore Jesus commands His people to *pray for more obedience to Him*

1. We need to be ruled by His Word and Spirit
2. No area of our personal and social life is exempt from His rule
3. We need to be open to 'grow in obedience to His revealed will'

II. Jesus commands to strive for *growth and strength* of His Kingdom

A. The 'growth of one kingdom' means the 'fall of another'

1. Though God's Kingdom has come and yet is still coming to fullness
 - a. every heart made willing is His Kingdom *begun*

 - b. yet every willing heart has a *long way to grow*

2. The growth of God's Kingdom always includes battle: Eph. 6:12ff

B. How does the Kingdom grow?

1. God is builder – conqueror – Captain of salvation (Ps. 125)
 - a. Jesus' parting promise is the guarantee of success: Matt 28:18-20

2. King places each 'saint-soldier' strategically in this world to advance His Kingdom
 - a. each saint has the task 'to battle for the King' while in this world

 - b. our main task: *prayer which leads to practice*

III. Jesus commands us to strive for His second coming in this world

A. Fullness of Christ's Kingdom is not realized till *His Second Coming*

1. Paul wrote "For he hath put all things under his feet ... and when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, **that God may be all in all.**"

2. The future glory of His Kingdom is *a new earth under a new heaven*
 - a. Revelations 21 pictures *renewed humanity in the future Kingdom*

CLOSING QUESTION: *How heavenly-minded are we?*

