

TEACHING GOAL

To study the Kingly office of Christ, with special attention to the kingdom of Christ known as the Church.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

- Q. How does Christ execute the office of a king?
- A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

S.C. 26; L.C. 45; W.C. of F. VIII, XXV, XXX, XXXI; Savoy 8, 31, 32; Young 68, 71

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Matthew 16:13-28

Support Passages: **Discipline:** Mark 8:27-33, Luke 9:18-22, John 6:68-69; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; **Officers:** Acts 14:20-23, 20:28; I Timothy 3; Acts 6; **Offices:** Ephesians 4:1-16; I Corinthians 12; **Judgement:** John 5:19-29; **Law:** Matthew 5-7

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 17:1-8; The Lord is transfigured and Elijah and Moses come from the Lord's kingdom in heaven.

.MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?" (Matthew 16:24-26, ESV)

APPLICATION

Nowhere do we find a higher concept of Jesus than in Ephesians 1:20-23. Without hesitation or reserve we must worship and serve this great King.

SUMMARY

The Scriptures present two aspects of the lordship of Christ. The first is His sovereignty over the created universe. King Jesus, does not disestablish civil government. In fact He controls and establishes the kingdoms of the earth. John is shown a vision of the Lord in heaven (Revelation 19:11-16) sitting on a white horse, judging and waging war. The armies which are in heaven follow Him and the sharp sword of His word smites the gentiles. He shepherds them with an iron rod. He is the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. John is not shown the Lord as He will be at His second coming, but as He is now in heaven. The angel told the disciples (Acts 1:11), "This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." He did not go to heaven on a white horse. John sees Jesus as the Messiah-King that He is now, ruling from heaven from His seat of authority. The word of God from the mouth of Jesus is heard by all nations now and many gentiles as well as Jews believe. Thus He is subduing us to Himself. And He rules (shepherds) with a rod of iron. This phrase comes from Psalm 2:8-9 which is quoted in Revelation 2:27 and 12:5, which teaches us that the kingship of Christ is powerful and just.

Indeed, the hostility of the kings of the earth and the beast (for example, the Roman government) does not escape our attention. The enemies of God and His Christ are many and have been so since the fall of man in Eden. Especially did they show their hostility when they slew the Son of God on the cross. The world of sinners hates Christ and refuses to follow Him as King and openly wars against Him hating and killing the followers of the King. Many indeed have been martyred for the sake of Christ and those of us who are subjects of the King of Kings are immediately placed into a battle for which we are given armor and grace to fight.

Jesus has graced His Church, His special kingdom for whom He died, His bride, His body, with His word, sacraments, government, and prayer. Not given the sword of civil government, the Church is given the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Civil government is provided for the prevention of anarchy and the good of Christ's Church which is immortal, everlasting and will be glorified in heaven. All civil government is fitted for destruction for the kingdom of Christ will be victorious over His enemies. The Lord Jesus is the rock upon which His special kingdom is founded (Matthew 16:13ff) and the very gates of hell itself, even the domain of Satan cannot overpower it. This is the second aspect of His lordship.

To be a citizen in any country or kingdom, there are entrance requirements. We must be born again by the Spirit of God in order to be a citizen of His special commonwealth. Every kingdom also has officers to which the king delegates some of his power. So the kingdom of Christ has officers with the "Keys to the kingdom of heaven." These officers may pass judgment on certain matters in the earthly part of the kingdom. No man is king in Christ's place but the Roman Catholic view of the Pope is just to the contrary, namely that he is Christ vicariously and occupies Christ's throne on earth. However, the officers in

Christ's kingdom have the power to extend it by preaching and teaching the Word of Christ, to administer the sacraments and to discipline the subjects of the King. Our gracious King has also given wise laws for us to follow (See for example Matthew 5-7, Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5). And He is going to come in glory, "The glory of His Father with His angels, 'and will recompense every man according to his deeds'" (Matthew 16:27).

When our King comes the second time He will raise the bodies of His redeemed people, change them to glorious bodies, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, for flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 15:50-52). His glorious kingdom to come is not perishable but heavenly. The glories of this future kingdom can scarcely be told even on the pages of Scripture, perhaps that the saints on earth will be more content to do the will of the King (Philippians 1:20-24). But the hope for the kingdom to come is blessed indeed. This very hope motivates us to serve our King all the more (Titus 2:11-13, Hebrews 11, 12). The messianic kingdom inaugurated at the ascension of Christ will then have been fulfilled and will be delivered up to God the Father in order that He might be all in all (I Corinthians 15:27-28).

We have seen from Scripture that Jesus indeed is a King, that His kingdom is universal and that He is Lord over all that special kingdom known as the Church. His special kingdom alone will be glorified for it alone had been redeemed by the blood of its King.