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Understanding the Lord's Kingdom

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Jesus came from Heaven to earth for a specific reason. He came to carry forth the Father's purposes to save fallen man (Ephesians 2:4-7). Paul said that God would "have all men to be saved, and to come unto a knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). God purposed to save lost men in the church or kingdom built by Christ (Matthew 16:18-19). The church of Christ is God's plan of salvation. But the kingdom or church is viewed without understanding by many. Please make the following comparisons:

1. Jesus came into the world to establish His church; but we must understand that His kingdom is not of the world (John 18:36).
2. Jesus worked the first of His mighty works in His personal ministry at a social affair (wedding John 2); but He made it very clear that His kingdom was not a social organization (Romans 14:17).
3. Jesus had power to forgive sins while he was on earth and did so in different ways with different people (thief on the cross); but after his death, burial, and resurrection, the world-wide commission recorded in all four accounts of the Gospel teaches that in His kingdom He saves only those who hear, believe, repent, confess His name, and are baptized into Christ (Matthew 9:6; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20).
4. Jesus taught men to pay their taxes while he was on earth; but made it abundantly known that His kingdom was not political (Matthew 22:21; Acts 1:6-8).

Let all who would be saved understand His kingdom and come unto Him who is ready, able, willing to save. He will add to His kingdom or church those who gladly receive his word and are baptized (Acts 2:41, 47). At the same time your name will be added to the book of life when you understand and enter His kingdom (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27).