

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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The Kingdom, The Church -Renn Ferguson

Have you ever wondered how we know that the church and the kingdom are talking about the same thing? Sometimes without explanation, operating under the assumption that the audience understands the reasoning behind it, a Bible class teacher may say something to that affect. Yet, there are many people who are confused as to why we say that. There are many different doctrines out there, some of which teach that the kingdom and the church are two separate organizations. So how do we know that the kingdom and the church are the same thing? Let's notice some passages of scripture together.

The first group of passages we are going to look at are those recorded before the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Notice the language that is used in them.

Daniel 2:44, "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever."

Mark 1:14-15, "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 16:18, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (ESV)

Mark 9:1, And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power." (ESV)

If you notice in all of these passages the language used in reference to the kingdom or church is in the future tense. Meaning that it had not come but was going to. Now look at some passages after Acts 2.

Acts 2:47, "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." (NKJV)

Colossians 1:13, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." (ESV)

Hebrews 12:28, "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe" (ESV)

Do you see the shift in language? Before Acts 2 it was always future tense. Starting in Acts 2 and continuing throughout the New Testament the church and the kingdom are spoken of in either present or past tense. So we can come to the conclusion that these terms are used interchangeably to refer to the same institution.