



*Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.*

**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**

**Sunday - October 1, 2023**

## **The Kingdom Is Already Here!**

*by Troy Spradlin*

Jesus often spoke about the "kingdom of God," or the "kingdom of heaven." What was He talking about? Many religious groups teach that the kingdom, which Christ is referring to, has yet to arrive - they say it is still coming sometime in the future. Sadly, this has greatly confused many people. So, what is the truth about God's kingdom? Is it possible to accurately discern its existence? Indeed, it is possible. Let's look into the Bible to find the answers.

First, we find prophets like Daniel and Isaiah speak about a coming kingdom (Daniel 2:44; Isaiah 2:2; 9:7). They prophesied that it would be a special kingdom like no other and even specify the timeframe of its establishment. Daniel says, "In the days of these kings," referring to a fourth kingdom that would come after the present one of his time. Indeed, looking back at history the Medo-Persians came after the Babylonians, followed by the Greeks, and then the Romans. So, according to the prophecy, God's kingdom would be established during the reign of the Roman Empire.



Secondly, when Jesus Christ came to earth and preached, He stated that the kingdom "was at hand" (Matt 4:17). He also said, "The kingdom has come near you" in Luke 10:9. Such statements indicate close proximity of time in its establishment. Don't forget, Jesus Christ lived during the time of the Roman Empire. Since Galatians 4:4 teaches, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law," we can clearly see that God's timing was involved in all of this.

Thirdly, **one must simply look for specific, identifying characteristics that indicate the presence of a kingdom.** Every kingdom must have a king, subjects who are under the king, a territory, and a law. If it can be established that those four elements are present today, then we can conclude that the kingdom exists today. So, through diligent study of the passages presented below, you should find that not only does the "kingdom of God" already have all those characteristics present, but it is also already here and among us.

The first identifying mark is that **a kingdom must have a king.** If it does, is he reigning now? Look up these passages to determine the answer: John 18:33-36; 1 Cor 15:25, 26; 1 Tim 6:14, 15 and Eph 1:20-22. According to these verses, Jesus Christ is the current, reigning king. He is reigning from heaven.

The second trait to identify is **a kingdom must have subjects.** Consider what John says about himself in Revelation 1:9. He says he is "in the kingdom." Now, look in Col 1:2, 12, 13, 18 and Hebrews 12:28. What does this indicate about Christians? In addition, are not all disciples subject to the Lord according to Romans 6:17-22?

As a third identifier, **a kingdom must have a territory.** Notice in Matt 16:18-19, Jesus uses the terms "church" and "kingdom" interchangeably. The words "church" and "body" are also used interchangeably in Ephesians 1:22-23. In Acts 2:47 and Gal 3:27, the Bible also teaches us that, we are added into Christ (the church) upon our obedience to the Gospel (1 Cor 12:13). Then, notice that Jesus describes the kingdom as one that isn't physically visible, but one that it is within us (Luke 17:20-21). Thus, the territory of the kingdom is found among the hearts of the disciples (Rom 14:17). Lastly, **a kingdom must have a law.** If you compare Col 2:14 and Gal 6:2 alongside what Jesus taught in Matt 5:21-48, it should be obvious that all Christians live under a new law - the Law of Christ.

Therefore, according to what we have just observed and studied, we may conclude that the kingdom of God does, indeed, already have its king - Jesus Christ. It has subjects who are loyal to the king - His disciples. It has a territory - the hearts of those in His church. And, it has its own law - found written in New Testament. The verses categorically confirm that **the kingdom of God has come, is here, and currently exists!**

**6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191**

**www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org**

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## BIG EVENT REMINDERS



**FUEL Retreat @ GCBC**  
**November 10 – 12**  
 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Sign-up & pay \$55 by  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Exposure Youth Camp**  
**December 27 – 30**  
 All ages are welcome  
 Sign-up & pay \$175 by  
**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Afternoon SNAC**  
**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
**BEFORE CHURCH**

**October 1 | Makar / King's**

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. October 11

5 pm in the FH



## MSYG FALL EVENT

SERVICE · FUN · FOOD  
 OCTOBER 14 | 12 - 9 PM

### L2L Red Coat Project

#### For Hannah Raley:

Donations being accepted are cotton fabrics "45x45," thread, and/or funds to purchase needed. The supplies are to create tie lap blankets for assisted – living residents. Anyone willing to help sew, or tie, please let Hannah know!

### 2023 - 2024

#### Upcoming Workshop Dates

October 22

November 5

December 3

\*Puppets & Oral Bible Reading begin in November

**Trunk or Treat!**  
**Friday, Oct. 27**  
**@ 5:30-7:30**

See sign up sheet in foyer or Tara Henry to participate!

Margaret St. Church of Christ  
 6752 Margaret St.  
 Milton 22270

MARGARET ST KINGDOM KIDS ARE GOING TO

**SWEET SEASONS FARM**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH  
 2:00 - 5:00

TICKETS = \$14.00  
 CHILDREN 2 & UNDER ARE FREE

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." - Psalm 119:9-10

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Sherryn Canniff\* - health, pain
- Emma Dunaway - RSV
- Cory Gilreath - hospital, tests (Longmire\*)
- Sarah Goldman - car wreck, surgery (Frahm\*)
- Terry Jennings\* - Olive Branch Rehab
- Richard McCool\* - blood clot removed, stent
- Mary McGriff\* - recovery, sciatic nerve
- Claudia Smith family - loss of Claudia
- Glenn Price\* - triple bypass surgery, recovery
- Ruth Williams\* - recovery, healing

## Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley\* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick\* - loss of mom, Kandi
- John Hart Ellis\* - loss of wife
- Hatcher family\* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Linda Loftin\* and family - loss of Jim\*
- Elsa Nunes\* - loss of brother, Guillermo Deir
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy\*

## Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman\*)
- Sherry Davis\* - The Blake (Davis/Napier\*)
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis\*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia\* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom\*)
- Linda Mann\* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel\* - Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller\*
- Ruth Phillips\* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines\* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas\* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)

## Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Savannah Smith
- Stephen English
- Nick Webb
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Lily Weathersbee
- Jackson Lash
- Reed Wilson
- Caleb Owens
- Lexi Wildes

## Mission Works

- Shanahans\* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

## Other Requests / Health Issues

- Patricia Ann\* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Max Bowers - prayers, final stages (S.Temple)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Mike Brown - stroke, recovery (former mem)
- Robbie Bullard - aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Winston Burnham\* - back surgery soon
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis\* - health
- Renee Decker - final stage / kidney (Lester\*)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee\* mom)
- Myrna Fuller\* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Gary Good\* - tests
- Dixie Gorham - recovery - heart failure
- Donald Hamilton - surgery, recover (McGriff)
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alonna's friend)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Joe King\* - spine issues, PT therapy
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Martin family\* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Elsa Nunes\* - fell/recovery, arthritis
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham\*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott\*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia\*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher\*)
- Gloria Vonada\* - health
- Jan Whitney\* - heart procedure, recovery

## Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey\* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas
- Cole Weathersbee - Great Lakes, Illinois

## Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024

## Cancer

- Darrell Bozeman\*
- Misty Bray\* - (Bird\*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott\*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis\*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher\*)
- Jack Davis\*
- Pat Deforest\*
- Eddie English - (R.English\*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley\*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff\*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell\*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey\*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill\*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton\*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin\* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley\* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff\*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms\*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

## 2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Jada Crider\* - Baptized
- Brittany Parker\* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock\* - Baptized
- Matthew & Ashley Gingerich\* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich\* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott\* - Baptized
- Ashley Scott Buckley\* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker\* - Baptized
- Scott Graham\* - Baptized
- Gary and Sherian Good\* - Identified
- Jan Holmes\* - Identified
- Mike and Addie Frahm\* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings\* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings\* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway\* - Identified
- Allen & Heather Overton family\* - Identified
- John & Holley Raley family\* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family\* - Identified



# SERVING WITH HONOR

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**MORNING**

Opening Prayer ..... Chris Davis  
 Song Director ..... Caesy Bearden  
 Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
 ..... "Twelve Ordinary Men (3)"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Judsen Jennings  
 ..... Acts 1:15-20  
 Closing Prayer ..... Joe Wilson

**Serving Communion (Left - Right):**

Philip Lester ..... Mike Frahm  
 Bob Locklin ..... John Pace  
 ..... Luke McReynolds (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Phillip Webb

**EVENING**

Opening Prayer ..... Jake Newcomb  
 Singing ..... Rick Bird  
 Scripture ..... Matt McReynolds  
 ..... 2 Corinthians 2:9-11  
 Comments ..... Phillip Webb

**Worship Service and Preparation:**

Communion Prep ..... Hatcher family  
 PowerPoint ..... Connie Bartell  
 Greeters ..... John Pace  
 Secure Building ..... Blake Hatcher

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

Song Director ..... Brody Crider  
 Opening Prayer ..... Justin Davis

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

Sunday Bible Class ..... 160  
 AM Worship ..... 200  
 PM Worship ..... 125  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 162  
 Contribution ..... \$8,508

**TIMES OF SERVICES:**

Sunday AM Bible Class ..... 9:00 am  
 Sunday AM Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 6:30 pm

## Visitors:

**Thank you for coming!**

**You are our honored guest!**

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

***Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!***

### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.

**BENEVOLENCE**

Margaret Street CHURCH OF CHRIST

**FOOD PANTRY**

Food Pickup : 10/10 @ 9:30 AM  
 Preparing Boxes:  
 10/11 @ 5:30 PM  
 10/12 @ 9:30 AM  
 Distribution : 10/12 @ 2:30 PM

*Please consider donating travel size toiletries!!*

**EDUCATION**

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

Bible Study and Fellowship  
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM

**OWLS**  
 Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

## STAFF

**Troy Spradlin** ..... Preacher / Minister  
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## ELDERS

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**Phillip Webb** ..... 232-7431  
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**Joe Wilson** ..... 206-8350  
 ..... jaw@wilsonharrell.com

**CONTACT FOR OCTOBER:**

Primary..... Joe Wilson  
 Secondary ..... Rick Bird

## DEACONS\* & MINISTRIES

Administration ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell  
 Building & Grounds ..... Paul Lipford\*  
 Education ..... Chris Davis\*  
 Evangelism ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Finance .....  
 Fellowship ..... Jeff Scott\*  
 Involvement ..... Joe Taylor\*  
 Lads to Leaders ..... David English  
 OWLS ..... Stephen Fulton  
 Missions ..... Mike Scott\*  
 Visitation ..... Bob Locklin  
 ..... Mason Chandler  
 Kingdom Kids ..... Dane Harrington\*  
 Worship ..... Blake Hatcher\*  
 Youth & Family ..... Casey Bearden