

1. Introductory Remarks.

- a. The concept of a King is foreign to us Americans. But God, and for our study, the Lord Jesus Christ in particular, is a King.

1 Tim. 1:17. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim. 6:14-16. ...blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen

- b. The Lord Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand and reigns at this present time.

Psalm 110:1. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies Your footstool." Also see Philippians 2:9-11.

- c. When speaking of the kingdom of God, we are referring to Christ's government over His people. This kingdom has two phases: the kingdom of grace—Christ's reign over His church the Head, and the kingdom of glory—the blessed future of the redeemed. Not two separate kingdoms, but one, with two parts or phases. The transition is the study of eschatology, or the last things or "end times." Pre-mil, a-mil, post-mil, (pan-mil?)
- d. The Kingdom of Grace: the Church.
- e. Invisible (the church as God sees it.) (WCF ch. 25, sec. 1.)
- f. The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof, and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all.
This shows the unity between Christ and the church.
- g. Visible (the church as man sees it.) WCF ch. 25, sec. 2.

The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel, not confined to one nation, like before, under the law, consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, and of their children, and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

2. Christ, the King and Head of His church, loves, cares for, and nourishes her.

Eph. 5:25-27. ... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

How does Christ love the church?

3. Through Christ, we are citizens of His kingdom.

Eph. 2:19-20. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

Philippians 3:20-21. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 Peter 2:9-10. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

4. Characteristics of Kingdom Citizens.

a. Poor in spirit. Matthew 5:3.

b. Holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16. But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

c. Persecuted. Matt. 5:10.

d. Worshiping.. 1 Peter 2:9. (see passage above)

5. The Kingdom of Glory

a. The intermediate state.

Luke 23:42-43. Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

2 Cor. 5:8. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:21, 23. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ... For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Good, but incomplete. Better, but not best.

b. The eternal state. Consists of:

c. The resurrection of the body. 1 Cor. 15.

d. New heavens and a new earth. Isa. 65:17 ff.; Rev. 21 and 22.

e. An incorruptible inheritance that can neither spoil, fade, or perish. Treasures(rewards) in heaven. 1 Peter 1:3-4; Matt. 6:19-21.

f. No more tears, sorrow, death, crying or pain. Rev. 21:4.

g. God with us, we with Him, forever. Rev. 21:3.

h. Worship, service and activity. Rev. 7:15; 22:5.