

Jesus' Kingdom

Jn.18:36-37

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Jn.18:36 Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have fought that I might not be delivered up to the Jews. But now My kingdom is not from here."

Jesus told Pilate when asked if He was the King of the Jews that His Kingdom was not of this world. So where is His Kingdom? Jesus' Kingdom is talked about as one that will never end, one of righteousness, one that we can become citizens of. (Dan.7:14; Ps.45:3-7; Isa.9:6-7; Rm.14:17; Col.1:12-14) The Kingdom of God, Jesus' Kingdom, the Kingdom of Light are, as far as I know, all the same Kingdom.

The term 'world' (cosmos) can be a challenge to understand. Notice Jesus' words about the world in **John 17:13-18**. To be in the world and yet not of the world is a challenge to explain. We all are born into the physical world and must also be born into the Spiritual world. (Jn.3:3-7) John insists that everyone who has been reborn by God will overcome the world. (1Jn.5:4)

Part of the "world" concept has to do with what or who rules the affections of the heart and mind. The base pursuits of our life focus. John tells us

that loving the world or its things is against the nature of our second birth. (1Jn.2:15-17) James also speaks strongly against being affectionately attached to the physical world. (James 4:4)

We understand that since we live in physical bodies that they must be cared for and maintained but they, our physical presence, is not the sum total of who we are and what our existence is about. Paul commanded us as children of God to not be consumed by the physicals realms influence over our total existence. (Rm.12:1-2) Paul did because Jesus did. (Jn.16:24-34 (33))

The real danger of not setting God's Spiritual world as primary and as most important to us and our lives here on earth is the ruler of the physical world. The very real danger is the alluring pull of the physical world over the control of our affections and pursuits. Its deceptions (Rev.12:9) its power (1Jn.5:19) its desires (1Jn.2:16-17) its participations in disobedience (Eph.2:2) and the blindness to truth (2Cor.4:4)

Take to heart that God will strengthen you because He has overcome the world. (Jn.16:33) and enables us to also overcome. (1Jn.4:4; 5:4-5) "Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

I believe, how about you?