

Sunday, January 14, 2024—Galatians 5:21 The Kingdom of God in Pauline Theology

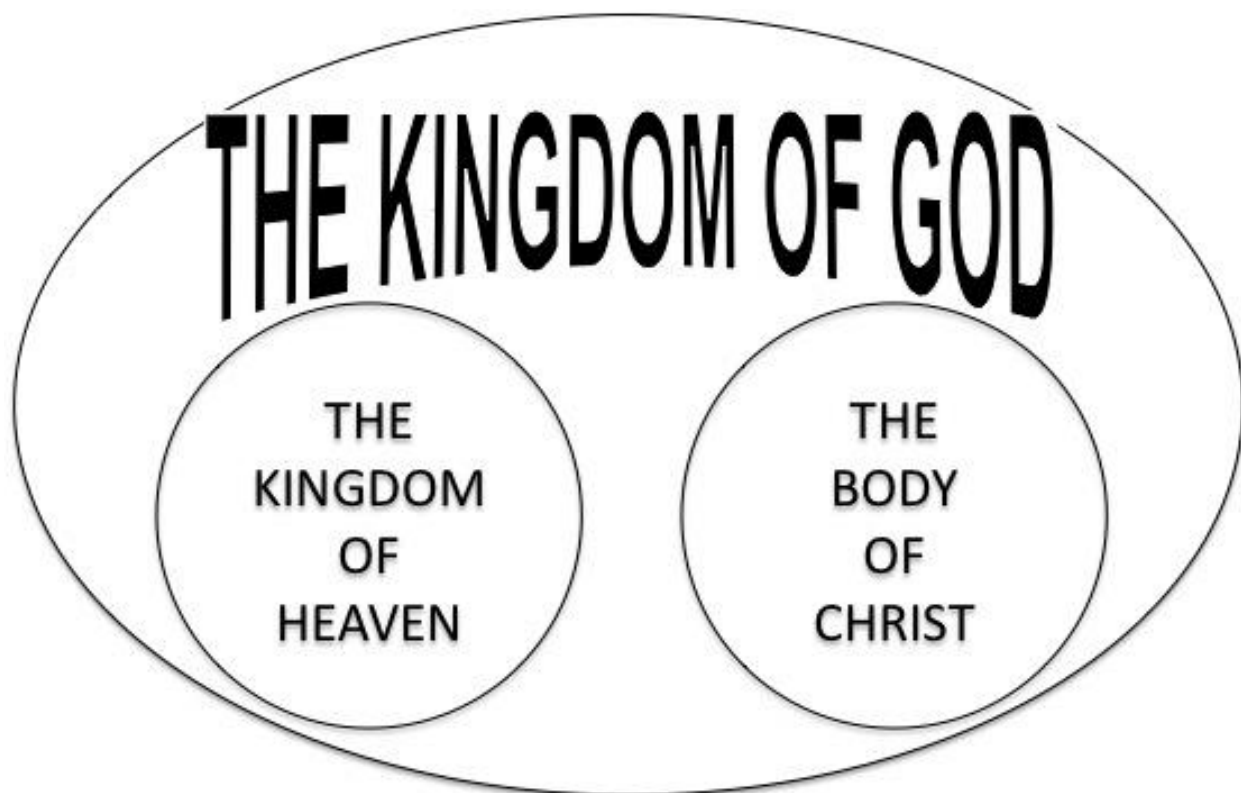
### Galatians 5:21

- **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**
- This morning I want to focus on the expression “the kingdom of God” in verse 21.

### The Kingdom of God in Pauline Theology

- Paul’s use of the term “kingdom of God” has been used by many to try and trip up Pauline grace believers. Consider the following Pauline occurrences:
  - I Corinthians 4:20
  - I Corinthians 6:9-10
  - I Corinthians 15:50
  - Ephesians 5:5
  - I Thessalonians 2:12
  - II Thessalonians 1:5
- You hear a lot of talk on Christian TV and radio about building the kingdom of God or ushering in the kingdom of God. To understand Paul’s usage of the term we first need to understand what the kingdom of God is.
- In the gospels the phrases the “kingdom of heaven” and the “kingdom of God” are talking about the same thing and are therefore used interchangeably.
  - Matthew 3:2—“kingdom of heaven”
  - Matthew 4:17, 23—the expression “kingdom of heaven” appears 32 times in Matthew. No other N.T. writer used the expression “kingdom of heaven.” Matthew also uses the expression “kingdom of God” 5 times interchangeably with “kingdom of heaven.”
    - Matthew 6:33; 12:28; 19:24; 21:31, 43
    - Consider the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 as a case in point. The expressions are used interchangeably.
      - Matthew 5:20—“enter into the kingdom of heaven”
      - Matthew 6:33—“the kingdom of God”
      - Matthew 7:21—“enter into the kingdom of heaven”

- Mark 1:14-15—Mark reports Jesus was preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. Compare Mark 1:15 with Matthew 4:17.
- This kingdom was prophesied to Israel in the Old Testament:
  - II Samuel 7:12-16
  - Isaiah 9:6-7
  - Daniel 2:44
  - Daniel 9:24-26
  - Luke 1:67-73
  - Luke 19:41-44
  - Acts 1:6—he does not correct their understanding
  - Acts 2:36-38
  - Acts 3:18-21
  - Matthew 25:34
- What happened to this kingdom? It has not yet been established. Why? Because God interrupted the prophetic program and temporarily set Israel aside because of their unbelief so that he could begin forming the body of Christ and accomplish his secret purpose regarding the heavenly places.
- From Paul we learn that there is more to the “kingdom of God” than the earth, rather we see God the Father’s desire not only to have the preeminence in the earth but also in the heavenly places.



- Colossians 1:16-19—through the revelation of the mystery God has revealed his plan not only to redeem the governmental structures of the earth back to himself but also the heavenly places.
- Ephesians 1:10—in the dispensation of the fulness of times all things in heaven and earth will be centered under the authority and headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul extends the “kingdom of God” into the heaven places through the revelation of the mystery.
  - Ephesians 3:11—the eternal purpose of God
- Luke 14:15—Romans 14:17