



I was told onetime, "If you don't have a Companion Bible, get your keys out, start your car, and go get one." I did. It has been invaluable.

I must give the same advice to those who don't know about the Kingdom of God, but with much more urgency.

Get these two books - "A Kingdom Study," by Edward Byrd; and, "Jesus and the Kingdom" (The Eschatology of Biblical Realism), by George Eldon Ladd.

Jesus told us to pray "Thy Kingdom Come." Therefore, I recommend these books to you. Certainly, the more we know about any subject, the more we appreciate it and its workings. And, after one is saved, nothing provides direction more than the word of Jesus on the subject of the coming Kingdom.

However, it will remain only an interesting mystery to you, until you unite with the Lord's New Testament Church. It is here, in His body, where, "Unto you has been given to know the mystery of the Kingdom, but to them it is not given," Mt 13:11. In the church, the Kingdom becomes a pearl of great price.

At the very beginning of this study on the Kingdom, a seed is planted that grows within us. As it matures within our being, Kingdom words are transformed, becoming Kingdom fruit. Kingdom Truth is defined - not by what information we may know on the subject, but by heavenly joy of anticipation that springs up within us, even refreshing us now, in this present age, looking for that day to come. Kingdom Truth surpasses mere words within a believer. It puts us on our tiptoes, "looking for that blessed hope, the appearing of Jesus," Titus 2:13.

When Kingdom anticipation occurs, we no longer view its words merely as a doctrinal position. His true reign takes charge of us, directing our hearts as if that day is already here. When Jesus sits on the Throne of the heart, His Kingdom rule sways us to do what He commanded.

But, as we all know, there is a bucket full of teachings out there about the kingdom. That's why we must study it, carefully. I believe that correct service to God is found within three areas. 1) Know that you are saved; 2) That your church is Scriptural; And, 3) Know the Kingdom teaching.

These two recommended books will give you a well rounded approach. The late Professor Ladd, cites many scholars, giving the reader a serious overview (s). Edward Byrd received his Doctorate in Bible Language from the American Baptist Seminary of Little Rock, Arkansas. He served as Greek Instructor for twelve years at the same Seminary.

While Professor Ladd offers much insight, Doctor Byrd provides eye glasses that have ecclesiastical lenses. He sees the Kingdom from a New Testament Church perspective, a view that ties first faith in Jesus to faithful service to Jesus. He explains the servant's

reward, which the parables demand, not as lost and saved, but as a matter of service within the Lord Church.

The book by Ladd is out of print. I managed to get another one (I must quit loaning my books) from a used book store. Its costly, but, so what, if you can get it? "The Kingdom Study" may be ordered directly from Brother Byrd at EDWARDBYRD@peoplepc.com.

EXCERPTS;

"A Covenant is a "declaration of purpose." God has declared (and prepared) a kingdom "from the foundation of the earth" (Mt 25:34). This is his promise. While this is a single purpose it has been revealed piecemeal until we have the complete revelation in Christ who seals the covenant with His blood and makes it forever NEW and EVERLASTING. This everlasting covenant (Heb. 13:20), or purpose, affords us that blood by which men are made perfect in every good work to do His will, and works in us that which is well pleasing in His sight," **BYRD.**

"...THE KINGDOM OF GOD is the redemptive reign of God dynamically active to establish his rule among men, and that this Kingdom, which will appear as an apocalyptic act in the end of the age, has already come into human history in the person and mission of Jesus to overcome evil, to deliver men from its power, and to bring them into the blessings of God's reign...It is precisely this background which provides the setting for the parables of the Kingdom," **LADD.**

These books are extremely valuable to any student of God's word. Any member of the Lord's Church will rejoice. With over 150 Kingdom references in the Bible, HAPPY READING TO YOU.