



**The Cross Behind Us, The Christ In Us,  
The Kingdom Before Us.**

**John 10:8**

2017 Lenten Study

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These are the WHATS, WHENS AND HOWS that should guide you toward your purpose!!

**Objective:** Our focus tonight will push us to take an intimate look at Scripture with a goal to develop a deeper understanding of the Kingdom. The Kingdom when you look at John allows us to glimpse the Kingdom and ultimately be able to develop a Spiritual life that will allow us to enter the Kingdom.

**Now that Resurrection Sunday has come and gone many people may ask themselves the question: “What’s Next?”** Our NEXT as Christians is to understand what it means to live as Kingdom Agents with a purpose.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Do I understand what it means to live in the Kingdom?
2. Do I clearly understand my role within the Kingdom?
3. Do I fight Kingdom Agenda?
4. Are my gifts effectively utilized for the upbuilding of the Kingdom?
5. Have I witnessed resurrection after things have been crucified in my life?
6. Am I willing to allow somethings to be crucified to experience resurrection?

**NO ONE CAN SEE the KINGDOM if they have NOT been BORN AGAIN!!!!!!!**

Just ask Nicodemus (John 3). Nicodemus was a leader in the church, understood the law, taught other people church polity but because he was not awakened to the reality of Christ he couldn't see the KINGDOM!! We must continually grow in our salvation. Repentance must be a constant theme in our lives!!

**How many people fight ministry because they are blind to the Kingdom that is in front of them!!**

Our Theme **TONIGHT** The Cross Behind Us, The Christ In US and the Kingdom Before Us **MANDATES** that we see.

To see means to perceive with the eye or to discern visually. The ability to see means to be able to understand.

If we are going to SEE the kingdom one **MUST** understand **REPENTANCE!**

- 1. Matthew 3:5-12
- 2. Matthew 4:17; 11:20-21
- 3. Luke 3:7-14
- 4. Luke 5:32; 13:3-5; 24:45-47

These are just a few examples. There are MANY more!!

**Difference Between Kingdom and Democracy:**

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### **How Will We Be Successful in the Kingdom that is Before US:**

- Operate in a Spiritual State of Repentance knowing that Repentance involves
  - An Emotional Change-feeling regret, sorrow, even hatred toward our conduct
  - Volitional Change-is the desire to alter their future course of action
  - Total, Radical Alteration with the Core of Our Personal Being

Repentance includes a mental change, as we gain a new attitude toward our actions, even toward our existence.

While we may not ever be free from the bondage of sin we have a responsibility to work out our soul salvation.

### **John 3:3**

- When Nicodemus heard he BORN AGAIN the word that was used was “anothen” which means either “again or “anew”. Nicodemus understood Jesus to mean again but Jesus was teaching that he must be born from above.
- That is why Faith must be added to repentance so that we don’t live under the guilt of sin but the remission of SINS!!! Faith helps us see the Kingdom!! Hymn: “My Faith Looks UP to Thee”

### **How Does Faith Work?**

1. Notitia (Knowledge)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Assensus (Assent)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Fiducia (Trust)

***We have to shift our thinking to be able to see the kingdom with the hope of entering the eternal kingdom. If we were to examine that periscope of John we learn that while Nicodemus misunderstood, Jesus teaches him a lesson on what it means to be born from above!!!***