



A CARPENTER,
A CROSS & A CROWN

A Series through the life of Christ

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THE PROPERTIES OF THE KINGDOM

The Now-But-Not-Yet Kingdom



Matthew 13 Berean Study Bible

31 Jesus put before them another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field.

32 Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Matthew 13 Berean Study Bible

33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into three measures of flour, until all of it was leavened.”

Revelation 11

15 Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven: "The kingdom of the world is now the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

Matthew 13 Berean Study Bible

44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and in his joy he went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.

46 When he found one very precious pearl, he went away and sold all he had and bought it.

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Titus 2

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Matthew 13 Berean Study Bible

47 Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and caught fish of every kind.

48 When it was full, the men pulled it ashore.

Then they sat down and sorted the good fish into containers, but threw the bad away.

Matthew 13 Berean Study Bible

49 So will it be at the end of the age: The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous,

50 and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Romans 11

22 Take notice, therefore, of the kindness and severity of God: severity to those who fell, but kindness to you, if you continue in His kindness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

A question for Christians

This is not a post for attacking Christian beliefs or promoting atheistic views. This is a post about understanding. I'd like to understand Christians better. So, Christians: I have a question for you.

If you really believed some of the people you love dearly were going to spend an eternity in hell, wouldn't that motivate you to try harder to save them?

Let's say we all lived in Poland at the start of World War II and you got word that soon, the Nazis were going to invade the town where several of your friends and family lived.

The Nazis were going to take everybody off to concentration camps in chains, and possibly kill them.

And let's say this information came from a very reliable source, so that you really believed this was going to happen.

Would you just go on about your life? Would you just mention this to your friends and family in passing, and send them the occasional tract with information on the threat of the Nazis?

Would you merely pray for them to see the threat and save themselves?

Or, would you do everything you could to save your friends and family?

Maybe you would drive out there and try to convince them of the threat until you were blue in the face. Maybe you would refuse to leave until they came away with you.

Maybe you would... I dunno what, but it would be pretty drastic.

I know if I were in that situation, then I would do some pretty drastic things to save my friends and family.

But this is not what Christians do for their friends and family who they really believe are on the verge of falling into eternal torture, even though they say they really believe this, and even though they feel they really believe this.

So something weird is going on.

Millions of Christians really believe this stuff, but they don't act like it.

As best we can tell, humans always act so as to fulfill the strongest of their current desires, given their beliefs.

But I very much doubt that Christians do not have a strong desire to save their spouses, their children, and their best friends from eternal agony.

So there seems to be something weird about the belief end of the equation.

Do Christians really believe what they say and feel they believe?

What's going on here?

If you really believe this, you shouldn't have to tell yourself, "You're right, I really should try harder to evangelize."

No, if you really believed, you would already have that motivation! You wouldn't need to try to manufacture it!



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