

Entering the Kingdom

(About Salvation Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*What was your favorite birthday?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church - Core Belief

We believe that the blood of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross provide the sole basis for our forgiveness of sins. That those accepting Christ should repent of sin, confess their faith, and be baptized into Him. (*1 Cor. 6:9-11, Rom. 10:9, Rom. 6:23, Acts 2:38, Eph. 2:8-9, Gal. 3:26*)

What does it mean by the Kingdom is already but not yet?

Luke 17:20-37 God's Kingdom is within you (WEB) [Already?]

Revelation 21:1-4 God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (NIV) [Not Yet?]

Ezekiel 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you... I will give you a new heart... I will put my Spirit within you... (ESV) [Prophesized]

John 3:1-13 "Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can't see God's Kingdom." (WEB)

What does "born again" mean in the Jewish culture?

Conversion (Proselyte) → Circumcision

Bar Mitzvah → Torah Scroll

Marriage → Wedding Ring

Ordination as a Rabbi → Laying on of hands or

Prayer shawl (Tallit)

Leading a School as a Rabbi → Teacher's Chair
(Seat of Moses)

Becoming King → Crown

Coronation (Enthronement) → Throne / Scepter

(*From Robby Gallaty, The Forgotten Jesus*)

Read Luke 17:20-37 the kingdom of God is in your midst (NIV)

What does in your midst or within you mean? (*Do you want to be left behind?*)

Application

Are you born again? / Repent for the Kingdom is near/ at hand (Matthew 4:17)

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine

Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience

Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"

Transformed

Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Orthodoxy/Believe: God's Kingdom has come via King Jesus & will be fully realized when He returns.

Orthopraxy/Live: Repent and be baptized, be born again, and live now as a citizen of God's Kingdom.

Orthopathy/Desire: Desire God's rule in your heart and the fulfillment of His Kingdom.

Summary Kingdom is now and forever, already and not yet

Review Question: How do you enter the kingdom?

Closing Prayer *Lord, we know that being made anew is a continually process of repentance, repentance, and repentance...*

Justified Freely – Why is Salvation Free?

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Romans 3:23-24 ...for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ... (World English Bible)

Ephesians 2:8-9 ...for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. (WEB)

How do we get this gift?... Then is it free?... What is the cost?

Mat 16:24-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life? (WEB)

What is the cost to be Jesus’ disciple? What is the cost to be a Christian? Everything. **Then how is this free?**

What are works? If you work, you expect payment. Works-based religion is the belief that one’s religious deeds are done as an effort to earn righteousness.

So why would anyone do anything?

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (WEB)

This has been a problem for a long time. But 6:2-4 If we are Christians, we died to self and sin. Most people confuse obedience with this unholy word **works**. What is the difference? Your heart. Don’t be afraid of accidentally performing a work, be afraid of being disobedient (being lukewarm).

Why is salvation free? Because you couldn’t pay the cost that Jesus paid to justify you freely.

Read Roman 3:19-31 – Grace has always been the plan.

Application Be Jesus’ hands, feet, and voice.

Is God’s Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: “What is true?”

Doctrine Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: “How should I live?”

Obedience Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: “Am I Spirit-led?”

Transformed Proper desires, alignment with God’s will

Summary Kingdom is now and forever, already and not yet, Salvation is free and cost everything

Review Question: Why is salvation free? Because you couldn’t pay for it...

(*Connect this question: Are you paying the cost to be a disciple? With today’s study*)

Closing Prayer Lord, we thank you for your grace and the price Christ paid...

Newness of Life

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John 3:1-13 *Entering the Kingdom*— (*Foundations Salvation Lesson 01*)

“Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can’t see God’s Kingdom.” (WEB)

Ephesians 2:8-9 *Why is Salvation Free?*— (*Foundations Salvation Lesson 02*)

“to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity” (WEB)

Romans 6:4 *Newness of Life*— (*Foundations Salvation Lesson 03*)

“We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.” (WEB)

Read Romans 6 Buried → Raised → Surrendered → Freed

Suggested sections (Rom. 6:1–4 — Baptized into Christ, Romans 6:5–11 — Dead to Sin, Alive to God, Rom. 6:12–14 — Do Not Let Sin Rule, Rom. 6:15–23 — Slaves to Righteousness)

Rom. 6:5 “...[we] become united with him in ...his death, we will ...be part of his resurrection (WEB)

Rom. 6:13 “present yourselves to God as alive from the dead” (WEB)

Rom. 6:23 “the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (WEB)

What role do you think baptism plays in the New Covenant?

What are the symbolisms of baptism?

Application Live a new life. The process of renewal is not a one-time event.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy/Believe: Salvation is a free gift through Christ, and in baptism we are united with His death and resurrection.

Orthopraxy/Live: Walk in newness of life, surrendering yourself to God rather than allowing sin to rule.

Orthopathy/Desire: Desire freedom from sin and a life increasingly surrendered to God.

Summary In Christ, we are buried, raised, surrendered, and freed to walk in newness of life.

Review Question: *What does it mean to walk in newness of life?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, thank You for the gift of salvation. Help us die to sin, surrender ourselves to You, and walk each day in newness of life.*

Note: Baptism was a normative practice of the early church for entering into the New Covenant.