

Elder Bobby Willis



The Establishment Of Christ's Kingdom!

Sweet Comfort! It is sweet comfort in knowing that Christ established His church kingdom on this earth during the 3 1/2 years He spent preaching His gospel. Also, it is sweet comfort in knowing that He has prepared a place for us in His Eternal Kingdom (John 14:2-3) where we will be **“heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”** (Romans 8:17).

There are a number of opinions of when and where Jesus established His Kingdoms and even if there are two or just one. It is hard to believe but there are some who subscribe to the idea that since He was rejected as the Messiah by the Jews, that He postponed setting it up on earth till some unknown date in the future - maybe not having any type kingdom on earth at all. There is no support for this idea in the Holy Scriptures.

In the book of Colossians, the Apostle Paul clarifies that God's children are **“translated”** into what he terms **“...the hope which is laid up for you in heaven...”** (Colossians 1:5). All born-again Children of God will one day occupy that sweet place called Paradise and give Him eternal glory forever and ever, without end. The spirit of those whom Jesus died for, who pass from this life, returns to the giver of life to await the grand resurrection when soul, body, and spirit will rest eternally in heaven.

However, there is a kingdom which Christ established when He walked this earth and He Is REIGNING NOW! It is termed the “church” or “The Bride of Christ.” Not all of God's children which He died for on the cross of Calvary will occupy the church kingdom. And, there are many reason why they won't. Some will die in infancy, some will die with infirmities of the mind, some will never hear the gospel and be privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the visible church body, and some are just disobedient to the gospel call. What a blessing and joy it is to know that baptism into the church is not a requirement for Eternal Life. Baptism is a commandment which we should obey to be a good disciple of Christ while we attempt to please Him and do His will.

Notice the writing of Paul in Acts 20:28, ***“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*** The disciples were instructed to feed the kingdom of the gathered body of believers and to be good stewards and overseers of such.

There is a **“head”** of the church kingdom and He is reigning now. Paul affirms this in Ephesians 5:23, **“... even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”** No one man is head of the church body other than Christ, though some may claim that honor. It belongs only to Jesus Christ our Lord. Those who are to occupy the earthy, visible, kingdom called the church, are those who have been born again of the Spirit (quickened, made a new creature). Sadly, not all of God’s children will belong to the church. There will come a time when all of the saints of God will gather to gather in Paradise, in that Heavenly Kingdom, and sing praises to the Master’s Name for evermore. Till then, let us be found giving Him praise, honor and glory. ***“Think About IT”***