

“If My Kingdom Were Of This World”

I. Introduction:

A. People have long misunderstood the spiritual nature of the kingdom of Christ (**Luke 17:20-21**).

1. They wanted Christ to be an earthly king (**John 6:15**).
2. After much teaching, they still perceived the kingdom and Christ in an earthly sense (**Acts 1:6-11**).

B. When talking about the kingdom of Christ there are a few things that could be meant.

1. For example, one could be talking about the kingdom in reference to being in Heaven (**I Corinthians 15:24; 15:50-53** and **II Timothy 4:18**).
2. Another example, one could be talking about the kingdom in reference to the church; the followers of Christ on earth (**Colossians 1:12-13**) and even the angels of heaven (**Hebrews 12:22-23; 12:28**).
3. Whether of the current (**Revelation 1:9**) or future (**James 2:5**); the kingdom refers to the people of the Lord.

II. Body: Our Lesson Comes From A Discussion Between Jesus and Pilate (**John 18:33-37**).

A. The kingdom, of which we as saints are citizens of, belongs to Christ and our Father (**Ephesians 5:5** and **II Timothy 4:1**).

1. To answer Pilate's inquiry, YES Jesus is the king (**I Timothy 6:14-15**).
2. So, what does that mean about His authority (**Ephesians 1:20-23** and **I Peter 3:22**)?

B. Since we have a heavenly King (**Hebrews 1:1-3**), what's that mean for our mindset and actions?

1. Those whom are saints are called by the Gospel (**II Thessalonians 2:14**) unto His Kingdom (**I Thessalonians 2:12**).
2. Our conversation [citizenship; Strong's # 4175] is in Heaven (**Philippians 3:20**).
3. Therefore, we are not supposed to be worldly (**Galatians 1:3-4** and **I John 2:15-17**).
 - a. How does that affect choices we make (**Luke 18:18-30**)?
 - b. How does that affect carnal relationships (**Proverbs 29:27**)?
4. Think about Jesus' statements and prayer concerning His disciples (**John 15:18-20** and **John 17:9-23**).
5. For us who have escaped, don't turn back (**II Peter 2:20-22**).

C. With all of that, what can we then consider about “our fight” and why the servants of the Lord did not fight carnally (**I Timothy 6:12**)?

1. The faithful will boldly (**Proverbs 28:1**) contend earnestly for the faith (**Jude 1:3-4**).

2. The faithful will boldly engage in a certain kind of warfare (**I Timothy 1:18**).
3. Like Paul (**I Corinthians 11:1**), the faithful will be set for the defense of the Gospel (**Philippians 1:12-17**).
4. Our weaponry and our warfare is not carnal (**II Corinthians 10:1-5** and **Ephesians 6:10-17**).
5. We are not people of strife [contentious] (**Romans 13:13-14** and **Philippians 2:3**).

III. Conclusion: The characteristics of the kingdom are the very opposite of what we see in this world (**Romans 14:17**).