

CHURCH AND KINGDOM

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The Kingdom of Christ (the reign of Christ over everything in heaven and earth- something we pray for daily) is coming now and shall eventually be consummated at the Second Advent. Mark 16:15, Acts 3:21, Romans 8:19-24, Hebrews 3:6-9, 2 Peter 3:13

The Kingdom is not the Church. The Church, the universal People of God, is the primary instrument or agency God uses to extend His Kingdom Reign to His Glory. Through the means of the preached Gospel, the Sacraments celebrated and Discipline administered, individuals experience regeneration and grow as Christians. This is the function of the institutional and "gathered" local church. And this is the motive for planting ever more local churches around the world.

The function of those Christians, "scattered" in the world, is to apply the Law (the Word) of God that they have learned in the local church to all the spheres of their life in the world. In this way the Kingdom shall grow and God shall be glorified.

The pluralistic and "secular" world Christians live in is populated and dominated, under the influence of Satan, by people who hate the triune God revealed in the Bible ["Jehovah"]. I do not expect such people to intentionally do the work of the Kingdom nor to be supportive of those who do. But God has and shall use non-Christians (including Governments) to do His work in the world and many, unintentionally, have. In the world at large, however, there shall be much resistance and persecution of faithful and obedient Christians, leading to their suffering and "cross-bearing" for Christ's sake. This shall be their greatest witness. 1 Peter 2:12, et al