

Bite Size Bible Study

Kingdom of God #68

By Pastor Lee

The statement by Paul that those who commit sins will not share in the Kingdom of God is a hard one to square with the concept of Jesus dying for everyone's sins.

*Don't you know that unrighteous people will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't delude yourselves — people who engage in sex before marriage, who worship idols, who engage in sex after marriage with someone other than their spouse, who engage in active or passive homosexuality, ¹⁰ who steal, who are greedy, who get drunk, who assail people with contemptuous language, who rob — **none of them will share in the Kingdom of God.** 1Cor 6:9-10 (CJB)*

Jesus tells the Pharisees that *the tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you!* Mat 21:31b

Other verses seem to echo the same concept of some not entering the Kingdom of God.

Yeshua looked around and said to his talmidim (disciples), "How hard it is going to be for people with wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!" The talmidim were astounded at these words; but Yeshua said to them again, "My friends, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! Mark 10:23-24 (CJB)

Yeshua answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. ⁶ What is born from the flesh is flesh, and what is born from the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5 (CJB)

Paul echo's this when he writes: *Let me say this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot share in the Kingdom of God, nor can something that decays share in what does not decay.* 1 Corinthians 15:50 (CJB)

Paul tells us that the Kingdom of God is not about physical things but is all about the power of joy and peace in the Holy Spirit.

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:20 (CJB)

...for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, shalom and joy in the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). Romans 14:17 (CJB)

When Jesus was asked when the Kingdom of God would come, His response was: *"The Kingdom of God," he answered, "does not come with visible signs; nor will people be able to say, 'Look! Here it is!' or, 'Over there!' Because, you see, the Kingdom of God is among you.* Luke 17:20b-21 (CJB)

The kingdoms of this world are filled with people's greed, self-indulgence, and every sort of evil that they can imagine. They can be identified by these attitudes and actions. The Kingdom of God is not so easy to see because the actions and attitudes of these people center around the love of the other person and the love of God. These people are currently mixed in with the people of the world and so you cannot say that the Kingdom of God is here or there because it is everywhere and yet mostly invisible to those who live with wrong attitudes.

For Yochanan came to you showing the path to righteousness, and you wouldn't trust him. The tax collectors and prostitutes trusted him; but you, even after you saw this, didn't change your minds later and trust him. Mathew 21:32

These unrighteous people are changing the way that they live – *the path of righteousness* – their priorities and actions have changed and they are trusting in the Good News that Jesus is bringing.

I think that we can see clearly that there are two categories of people: sinners and those turning from sin. Does that mean that the sinners will not ever be able to be a part of the Kingdom of God? I don't believe so. There will be a time when everyone is confronted with the wrong attitudes and actions that they have committed.

Just like those who are now a part of the Kingdom of God, everyone will eventually be a part of that Kingdom and peace and joy will again fill the earth as it was in Eden.

In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:14 (NIV)

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