

## Kingdom—KINGDOM—Kingdom—*Kingdom—kingdom!*

I surf—not with a *board*--but with a remote control. I watch few commercials. I constantly surf. I surf the “Christian Stations”. I surf non-Christian stations. I constantly check out what other pastors in the area and outside the area are preaching. I have come to some conclusions about the predominant theme of preaching today.

The predominant theme of preaching today seems to be The Kingdom! In particular, *Kingdom blessings*. The problem is most Kingdom preaching could better be described as "Kingdom 'Konfusion'". People in the pews are promised health, wealth, and prosperity. In fact, one would get the impression that the Kingdom of God exists for the sole purpose of catering to the wishes and whims of men and women, boys and girls.

The majority of Kingdom preaching today is a result of wrongly dividing the word of truth. I read my first commentary at the age of 12. It was on the book of Romans by Evangelist Oliver B. Green. Shortly after that I read a booklet by C. I. Scofield (the editor of the Scofield study Bible). The booklet was titled *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*. It was an exposition of 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Apparently these Kingdom preachers never learned about rightly dividing the word of truth.

The modern so-called Kingdom preachers are for the most part (if they know it or not) followers of "replacement theology". Replacement Theology takes the nation of Israel and replaces it with the church. In other words they take all of the blessings that God bestowed upon Israel found in the Old Testament and place them on the Christian. (It is interesting to note that they take all of the curses God threatened Israel with, if they were disobedient to him, and keep those upon Israel!)

However, regardless how they may disagree with me over the place of Israel today, there is a glaring error that I find with these modern day Kingdom preachers: all you ever hear them talk about is the Kingdom -- the Kingdom -- the Kingdom, but you never hear them talk about or brag on **The King! You are very hard-pressed to ever find these people exalting Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords and King of Kings!**

I am sure there will be people who will read this article who attend such churches. Sunday after Sunday you hear about the Kingdom and how God wants you to be healthy, wealthy, and successful. The one thing you seldom hear about *is the Lord Jesus Christ*. Yours is in an anthropocentric religion -- it is centered upon man. It has little concern for the glory of God or exaltation of our wonderful Lord. If you are honest with yourself and about your church, you must admit what I am saying is true. God

never intended a church to be anthropocentric. He intended the church to be Theocentric (centered upon God). And for a church to truly glorify the Father, it's preaching must be Christocentric (centered upon and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ).

Not that long ago, I had an attorney approach me and introduce himself. I introduced myself and told him the church I pastored. He informed me that for years he passed by our old church location. The one thing that impressed him the most was our sign. On it were the words of the apostle Paul, "for we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord. . ."

When I first came to this church in 1974, I placed a plaque on top the pulpit. It has been there ever since. Each time I enter the pulpit I read those words. They are from John 12:21: "Sir, we would see Jesus". I believe this is the difference between a word driven Church and a Rick Warren purpose driven Church. This is the difference between these Kingdom "Konfusion" preachers and preachers that rightly divide the word of truth: these Kingdom "Konfusion" preachers exalt man, the preachers who rightly divide the Word of truth exalt Jesus Christ.