

# Two Kingdoms; Choose One!

#3167 0901 24A

wds1564

**Luke 6:35** *Love ye your enemies, and do good,*  
**Luke 6:22** *Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you,*  
**Luke 6:23** *Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy*  
**John 1:11** *He came unto his own, and his own*  
**Mark 1:14** *preaching the gospel of the kingdom*  
**Revelation 2:10** *Be thou faithful unto death*  
**2 Peter 1:10** *be more diligent to make your call*  
**1 Peter 3:9** *do not repay evil for evil, on the contrary*  
**1 Peter 2:21** *For even hereunto were ye called*  
**John 18:36** *My kingdom is not of this world*

**1** We live in a violent and hostile world today, and the believer in Christ is constantly reminded of our being part of either the kingdom of God or of the world.

**2** The kingdom of Jesus is the one He wants us to be part of—a kingdom *not of this world!* His kingdom is one where we choose to live as He *told* us to live—treating others as we want to be treated and forgiving everyone.

**3** AV **Luke 6:35** *“Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.”*

**4** Many *say* they love God, and they *profess* faith in Christ, but they do not give evidence that they really belong to the loving kingdom of trust on

God that Jesus proclaimed. AV **John 1:11** *“He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”*

**5** God’s kingdom has not become a reality for many on earth because the world makes the wrong choice. But anyone *can* be part of *God’s* Kingdom—by acting, and living, and treating people in a way that brings glory to God.

**6** Everyone will be affiliated with *one* kingdom or the *other*—there is no neutral position.

**7** The kingdom of this world is violent, hateful, revengeful, self-centered, and unforgiving—but the kingdom of God is peaceful; loving; forgiving; and showing consideration to everyone.

**8** The Kingdom of *God* is vastly different from the kingdom of this *world*. God’s kingdom consists of *sharing* with others; of readily *forgiving* those who sin against us; of *not saving* finances for the future; and following.

**9** NKJV **Micah 6:8** *“What does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”*

**10** Although God’s kingdom includes many blessings, Jesus focused on the high cost required of those who would enter His kingdom. Politicians make big promises if we would join their party, but Jesus said that joining His kingdom would bring persecution.

**11** Future *rewards*, however, far outweigh temporary *troubles*—AV **Luke 6:22** *“Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven.”*

**12** Jesus wanted everyone to be part of His kingdom. It is a magnificent kingdom, but only for those who are sincere in their faith and trust on God.

**13** There would be difficulties, trials, tests, and persecution, but also great rewards and blessings if we kept the faith to the end. AV **Revelation 2:10** *“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

**14** The kingdom of the Lord would be a minority within a much larger culture. His citizens would *care* and *share* and *show* the world a much better way. His kingdom would exist side-by-side with the world—but *His* kingdom would be *very* different.

**15** He said NKJV **John 18:36** *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”*

**16** The subjects of His kingdom would not fight nor use force. For hundreds of years after Jesus’ ascension, His followers refused to take up arms. First century believers would always obey Jesus by refusing to strike back, but they were still active in *praying* and *trusting* God.

**17** These early Christians understood that evil can never be overcome by more evil. Violence begets violence—as is seen in the world—especially the Middle East. When a missile is launched across a border, the receiving side strikes back—creating more anger and hatred.

**18** Jesus taught His followers to be part of a much *different* way. They were known for responding with love. AV **Matthew 5:39** *“I say unto you, That ye*

*resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.*”

**19** The apostle said NKJV 2 Peter 1:10 “*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*”

**20** There is a *huge* difference between the kingdom of *God* and the kingdom of the *world*. Earthly governments are governed by *force*; but the kingdom of Christ is ruled by *love*.

**21** The followers of Jesus remembered His first sermon. AV Mark 1:14 “*After that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*”

**22** Christians were known in the first century for not taking up the sword and for loving their enemies—as Jesus taught them AV Matthew 5:44 “*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you.*”

**23** The apostle said not to return NKJV 1 Peter 3:9 “*evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*” This was the teaching and the doctrine of the early church.

**24** Jesus and His apostles taught people to love even their enemies. The early church *declined* high government positions and always promoted peace, but today most churches want political influence, and they support candidates who will use violence and force.

**25** Christianity today is known more for its political power *by force*, than for trusting God *in faith*. The first-century followers of Jesus would not recognize the Christianity of today.

**26** The world now is such a different place but imagine if people would return to the actual teachings of Jesus and be part of His kingdom—how things would change!

**27** Even though Jesus was unjustly accused and brutally beaten, He chose forgiveness and love, instead of retaliation and revenge. He demonstrated by His life, death, and resurrection that *love* is more powerful than *hate*.

**28** The apostle Peter proved his zeal for the Master by striking at Malchus when Judas—along with AV John 18:3 “*a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees—with lanterns and torches and weapons,*” came to arrest Jesus.

**29** The Lord rebuked Peter for striking back, and years later, the apostle said: AV 1 Peter 2:21 “*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.*”

**30** Peter had been combative and ready to strike at aggression—but he was transformed by the Master’s rebuke!

**31** He now saw this kingdom Jesus had been proclaiming—not an earthly kingdom that uses swords, hate, and military might, but a kingdom that conquers by love and kindness—whose citizens *forget* offenses and *bless* their enemies.

**32** Professing Christians today *talk* about forgiveness and love; they *tell* how powerful God is,

and how loving and merciful Jesus is, but when opposition appears, they reach for the sword.

**33** Christianity today resembles its unbelieving neighbors—they might *say* right things but are *not living* them. First century believers were serious about following Jesus. They *knew* the cost of discipleship and they believed Jesus meant what He said. They were determined, in His strength alone, to be faithful to His teachings.

**34** The Bible says that governments on earth are set up by God Romans 13:1-7. Jesus was very clear, however, that there were going to be *two kingdoms* on this earth—and *His* would be vastly different from the kingdom of this world.

NKJV John 18:36 “*My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.*”

**35** Since that time, God has always had His people—a small minority though they be—that would be faithful to the kingdom of Christ.

**36** They believe that Jesus *said* what He meant; and *meant* what He said. They believe that *love* is stronger than *hate*; that *forgiveness* is better than *resentment*; and *love* is the *theme* of the Kingdom of God.

**37** Which kingdom we want to be part of—is the *choice* facing everyone today!



[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

\*Receive free Tracts email:  
[fcgchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:fcgchurch1@gmail.com)

Or write to: PO Box 24283  
Philadelphia, PA 19120