Establishing the *Kingdom of God* on the Earth

Prepared by
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Understanding the Plan and Purpose of God

Foundational Considerations

1. God created everything; He created everything good; He created everything with a purpose.
2. God's purpose is clearly laid out in the Bible.
3. Mankind's reason for leaving is to fulfill God's purpose on the earth in their lifetime.

God's plan can be summarized in the first words He spoke to mankind:

**Genesis 1:26-28**

1. To **reflect** His character in the earth.
2. To have a perfect **relationship** with Him and other people.
3. To **rule** over the earth, themselves and Satan.
4. To **reproduce** these same things in the lives of other people.

Reflect.....Relationship.....Rule.....Reproduce

God's plan for Adam and Eve and for all people is to reflect His character in our lives and in this world. This means that when people see our life as Christians they should understand something about the one true God and Jesus Christ. How can we reflect the character of God? We can see one method in **1 Timothy 4:12**.

Reflecting the Character of God

1. **Reflect God in what we say.**
   Ephesians 4:29; Ephesians 5:4; James 3:5; 1 Peter 3:10; Matthew 12:36-37
2. **Reflect God in our attitude.**
   - Obedient
   - Submissive
   - Overcoming
   - Gentle and kind

3. **Reflecting God in our Love.**
   1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
   - God loves every person
   - God's love is consistent
   - God's love is unselfish

4. **Reflecting God in our Faith.**
   Hebrews 11:1; 6:12; 10:35-39
   - We receive everything from God by faith.
   - We overcome by faith.
   - We live by faith and not by what we see.

5. **Reflecting God in our Holiness.**
   1 Peter 1:13-16
   - Be self-controlled
   - Do not conform to the ways of this world

**Relationship With God and Others**

God has revealed Himself in such a way that mankind may know Him. However, as in any relationship, there are different levels of knowing Him:

**Relationship With God**

1. **Know About Him.**
2. **Know Him.**
3. **Know Him Accurately.**
4. **Know Him and Love Him.**
5. **Know Him and Obey Him.**

**Relationship With Other People**

Ephesians 4:1-6
Philippians 2:1-11
Rule Over the World, Self and Satan

We, as Christians, have three enemies:

1. **The World**
   1 John 2:15-17; 5:19; Revelation 18:1-24
   God’s plan includes influencing five parts of society:
   - Religion
   - Social Relationships
   - Entertainment
   - Government
   - Education

2. **The Flesh**
   Galatians 5:16-21; Romans 7:14-24
   - The flesh is a result of Adam’s sin and has strong influence over our life until we die.
   - However, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us overcome the flesh.
   Galatians 5:22-23

3. **The Devil**
   John 10:10; 1 John 3:8; Ephesians 6:10
   - Satan and his demons hate God and everything God created.
   - Satan has power to influence affairs on this earth including governments, relationships between people and to cause sickness and disease.
   - However, Jesus has given us His authority to destroy the works of Satan.
   Luke 10:1-11, 18; Mark 16:15-18

Reproduce Others
With the Same Qualities

Genesis 1:16-18; Genesis 12:1-4; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2
Understanding the Kingdom of God

Foundational Considerations
1. God is king and ruler over all.
2. God's reign has been challenged by Satan and sinners.
3. God intends to establish His kingdom in every nation, district, every city and every village.

Psalm 24:1; Matthew 6:9-10

God's Kingdom is the realm over which He rules.

Although God is ruler over all the earth, rebellion has risen up against His rule and He doesn't rule over every person nor in every place.

Psalm 2:1-3

God's intent is to regain control of humanity and the earth. This is what God is doing and has been since mankind fell into sin.

Matthew 3:1-2
Matthew 4:17
Luke 10:8-9

1. The Kingdom of God is Spiritual.
   Romans 14:17; John 3:3, 5
   God created this earth for His kingdom. He desires to reveal the ways of His kingdom, the laws of His kingdom, and the power and authority of His kingdom on this earth. He desires that people experience the blessings of His kingdom and live under His grace and power. God desires to rule in every country and in the life of every person. When a person repents of their sins and turns away from the Kingdom of Satan, they open their hearts to the Kingdom of God. They receive God’s laws into their lives, God’s love, God’s power –
God’s Kingdom. When a person repents God’s kingdom enters into this world by the life of one person. God’s plan is for His kingdom to enter this world by entering the life of each person. God’s plan is for this world to come under His authority. This will happen when each and every person submits themselves to the laws and government of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **God desires to reveal His Kingdom on this earth.**
   Matthew 6:10
   God created this earth for His kingdom. He desires to reveal the ways of His kingdom, the laws of His kingdom, and the power and authority of His kingdom on this earth. He desires that people experience the blessings of His kingdom and live under His grace and power. God desires to rule in every country and in the life of every person. When a person repents of their sins and turns away from the Kingdom of Satan, they open their hearts to the Kingdom of God. They receive God’s laws into their lives, God’s love, God’s power - God’s Kingdom. When a person repents God’s kingdom enters into this world by the life of one person. God’s plan is for His kingdom to enter this world by entering the life of each person. God’s plan is for this world to come under His authority. This will happen when each and every person submits themselves to the laws and government of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **God will fully establish His Kingdom on the earth when Jesus defeats His enemies.**
   Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 22:28; Luke 1:32
   Jesus will rule from Jerusalem and sit on God’s throne there. He will continue to fulfill His plan forever

4. **At that future day Jesus Christ will be the ruler and governor of God’s Kingdom.**
   Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 22:28; Luke 1:32
   Jesus will rule from Jerusalem and sit on God’s throne there. He will continue to fulfill His plan forever.
5. **All the nations will bow their knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**
   Psalm 66:4; Isaiah 2:2
   On the last day when every person is gathered before the throne of God, every person will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Every person who loves Him and have received His salvation already will bow with joy. All people who have rejected Him will bow and confess filled with fear.

6. **God’s Kingdom will last forever.**
   Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28; Luke 1:33
   Every kingdom has an end. Eventually they all stop and another government ascends. But God’s Kingdom has no end. Like God, His kingdom had no beginning and will have no end, but will continue forever. God’s Kingdom is above every kingdom and on the last day will triumph over all.

7. **The disciples of Jesus Christ will rule in the Kingdom of God.**
   Daniel 7:18; Revelation 5:10; Luke 22:29
   When God destroys this earth and creates a new heaven and new earth Jesus Christ will rule over this earth. At that time God has another work for us. His disciples will be appointed to rule over the citizens of God’s Kingdom and continue God’s Work in the universe. The Bible doesn’t explain clearly about all of this, but we know that there is a ministry for each one of us in God’s Kingdom on this earth and in the kingdom to come. The Bible clearly says that the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ will help Him rule in the Kingdom of God.

8. **The Kingdom of God is moving forward, not moving backward.**
   Matthew 28:18-19; Revelation 6:1-2
   Throughout history nations and rulers have rejected God’s Kingdom and have tried to destroy it, but the Kingdom of God continues to move forward. As God works through the lives of Christians who submit themselves to Him His kingdom will continue to increase. God’s Kingdom has a plan to move forward.
Jesus' Method of Establishing the Kingdom of God on Earth

Matthew 3:1-2, Jesus declared the Kingdom is near
Matthew 4:17, Jesus declared the Kingdom is near
Luke 9:11, Jesus taught about the Kingdom
Luke 10:1-9, The Kingdom has come
John 3:5, You must be born of the Holy Spirit
Matthew 6:9-10, Pray...Your Kingdom come...

1. The Kingdom of God demands to influence every part of society and every point in the human life. Rebellion must be subdued, laws established and obeyed, taxes levied, and productivity begun for the Kingdom of God.

FIVE AREAS OF SOCIETY
Social Relationships
Education
Entertainment
Religion
Politics
The Work Place

THREE PARTS OF THE HUMAN LIFE
Spirit
Soul
Body

MUST CONFORM TO GOD’S WILL

God cannot allow insubordination, rebellion and non-conformity in His Kingdom. (Regarding non-conformity, God delights in diversity, but there are limits to diversity that He will allow.)
2. **The Kingdom of God demands change and conformity to the will of the King.**

God uses every means to initiate and bring about change. Sometimes change is immediate, such as changes in our thinking or habits or such as a withered leg being healed or a storm being stilled. Often change requires cooperation between the heavenly and the earthly. *(Faith and obedience.)* Repentance is God and man working together to change the heart of a sinner.

3. **There is opposition to the Kingdom of God.**

*The World* lies in the hand of the wicked one.  
1 John 5:19 *We must overcome the world.*  
*The Flesh* opposes establishing the Kingdom of God.  
We must crucify it.  
Romans 7:14-24  
*The Devil* opposes God and His servants at every step.  
1 Peter 5:8  
We must cast him out.

4. **There is a mandate to establish the Kingdom of God in power.**

Question: "What did Jesus and the apostles do?"  
"Are we remaining true to apostolic tradition?"  
"Are we experiencing the same results as Jesus and the apostles?"

**Matthew 4:23**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jesus preached the Good News</th>
<th>New Birth</th>
<th>Repentance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jesus taught the way of the Kingdom</td>
<td>Change</td>
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<td>Jesus cast out demons</td>
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<td>Jesus healed the sick</td>
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<td>Jesus worked miracles</td>
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**Matthew 9:35-38**  
**John 14:12**
The Characteristics of the Church Jesus is Building

Matthew 16:18
Jesus said He would build His church. We believe that after He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven He empowered and guided His disciples to establish the Kingdom of God and plant and develop churches according to a set pattern. Even though churches will have different personalities and emphases, Jesus left us a pattern to follow. That pattern is in the Book of Acts.

We believe the pattern the apostles and original church left is represents God’s heart and priorities for churches today. Therefore, in this lesson we will especially look at Acts 2:37-47 as the pattern we will follow in planting and developing the local church.

Acts 2:37-47

1. The crowd was pierced to their heart, v. 37
We do not preach and teach just to transfer knowledge from one head to another, but we preach and teach for the Word of God to penetrate the hearts of those who hear it to bring change. We preach and teach to change lives! This involves our personal preparation in Bible knowledge and preaching and teaching by the power of the Holy Spirit. (cf. Matthew 7:28-29)

2. The people repented, v. 38
Why were the people pierced to their heart? Because Peter held their sin before them. He accused them of crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ. We must bring people to repentance by confronting them with a holy, righteous and just God and with their own sin. Repentance is turning away from an old life and our sins and turning toward the one true and living God with all of our heart. We use Law of God to fulfill it's purpose – convict the sinner and lead them to Christ. (Galatians 3:24)
3. The people who believed receive water baptism, v. 38. Water baptism is the proper response for those who truly repent.

4. The believers received the Holy Spirit, v. 38. We must teach clearly about the Holy Spirit, for He is the power of God in us to help us to all to please God. He is our Helper. We must teach people that they receive the Holy Spirit when they believe, but they must receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit as well.

5. Peter admonished the believers to be saved from this evil generation, v. 40. We must admonish the believers to turn from their sins and the traditions that are opposed to the ways of God.

6. They gathered together with the disciples, v. 41. We must teach Christians the value of gathering together with God's people regularly. (Hebrews 10:25)

7. They tried to obey the teaching of the apostles, v. 42. A Christian and a disciple is someone who chooses to not just hear the Word of God, but obey it. We must organize the programs of our church, or sermons and Bible lessons in such a way as to help the believers obey the Word of God. We must not allow them to think that attending a church meeting and listening to a sermon is what it means to be a Christian.

8. They lived together as brothers and sisters, v. 42. We must teach the people that the church is a family and we must relate to one another as a family – in love, forgiveness and patience. We must help the church understand that as Christians we care for one another.

9. They broke bread together, v. 42. This is probably what we call "The Lord's Supper." This was an important part of the church because they remembered the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and they also remembered they were the Body of Christ. This was an opportunity for them to examine their heart and attitude toward one another.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34
10. They prayed, v. 42.

11. The apostles did signs and wonders, v. 43. We must teach the church to expect God to do the same through us. Mark 16:15-20

12. All the believers had one mind, v. 44. We must stress the importance of unity in our churches and as for me, I created a series of classes which helps the new believer understanding the core values of our church. There is strength in unity.

13. They sold their possessions and gave them as offerings to the church to distribute to those who have a need, v. 44-45. We must teach the members of our churches the blessing of giving and sacrificing. We must also teach them to believe God will honor them for their obedience in giving and to expect God to bless them in return.

14. They tried to fellowship in the temple each day, v. 46. This again emphasizes the need for regular fellowship in the church meetings and among Christians.

15. They broke bread from house to house and ate together from house to house, v. 46. The first church gave us the pattern of meeting in the temple and from house to house (Acts 20:20). We must establish small groups in the church to make disciples, for fellowship and for evangelism.

16. They praised God together, v. 47. Christians are people who sing. We especially value the presence of God when we worship Him. Our songs and words of praise create a throne for Him to dwell upon (Psalm 22:3). We must create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to work among us and for freedom for Jesus to do what He wants to do in our midst (Revelation 3:20).

17. God added to their number daily, v. 47. Jesus wants His church to grow. We must preach for growth; teach for growth; organize for growth; work for growth; and expect growth.
If we want to lead the church of Jesus Christ, we must lead it according to God’s heart. We must lead the church according to God’s plan and purpose. What is God’s plan? As you know, God reveals His plan in the Bible. Every program that we create in our church and each decision must be according to God’s plan and purpose. In this lesson we will study clearly about God’s plan from the beginning. His plan from the beginning and His plan for today is the same.

God created the earth and universe and the people who live in this universe for this purpose:

1. To reflect His character in the earth.
2. To have a perfect relationship with Him and other people.
3. To rule over the earth, themselves and Satan.
4. To reproduce these same things in the lives of other people.

This purpose is revealed in Genesis 1:26-28. With these four words we can summarize what God wants to do in our life and in the church of Jesus Christ:

Reflect, Relationship, Rule, Reproduce

Reflecting the Character of God

God’s plan for Adam and Eve and for all people is to reflect His character in our lives and in this world. This means that when people see our life as Christians they should understand something about the one true God and Jesus Christ. How can we reflect the character of God? We can see one method in 1 Timothy 4:12.

1. Reflecting God in by What We Say. God wants us to say things that honor Him. When people listen to our conversation our words should encourage and build them up. These verses tell us more about our speech: Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; James 3:5; 1 Peter 3:10; Matthew 12:36-37. How can we as pastors and Christian leaders help the Christians in our church represent God in their speech? What can we teach and do to help them reflect God’s character in
their conversations?

2. **Reflecting God in Our Attitude.** Christians should have good actions, words, and attitude. When people watch our actions they should see that we’re different from normal people. How can we as pastors and Christian leaders help the people in our church to reflect God in their attitude at home, at work, at the market and every place they go?

3. **Reflecting God in Our Love.** God loves every person - the sinner and the saint. He loves every nationality - the Cambodian and the Vietnamese. He loves the communist and the democrat. Therefore, as Christians we must not be prejudiced but show God’s love to every person at all times. How can we as pastors and Christian leaders help the members of our church show love like Jesus showed love to every person?

4. **Reflecting God in Our Faith.** When our faith is strong even when we have problems, we reflect God in our faith. When we trust in Him when everybody else is afraid, we reflect God in our faith. How can we as pastors and church leaders help the people in our church reflect God in their faith?

5. **Reflect God in Our Holiness.** Above everything else, God is holy. If we sing songs, read the Bible and pass out tracts but we are not holy in the activities of our life, then we do not reflect God. How can we as pastors and church leaders help the people in our church reflect God in their actions?

Therefore, when we plan our teaching and our programs our evangelism and everything else in our church, we must help the members of our church reflect God’s character in all of their life. We must teach about each of these areas and show them what the Bible says. We must also tell them how they can reflect God’s character at their home, at their work, at their school and every place they go. We must also be an example ourselves so they can see our actions and do the same.

**Relationship With God and Others**

God also calls us to have a perfect relationship with Him and other people. Many Christians know about the one true God and Jesus Christ, but they don’t have a close relationship with Him. He is not their friend. They do not fellowship with Him everyday and invite Him to reign over every part of their life. The only way we can have a close relationship with Jesus is by spending time with Him. This means reading His Words in the Bible and praying. As pastors and leaders we must help people understand about this kind of a relationship. We must show them how to read and study the Bible. We must show them how to pray and create opportunities for them to meet with God during meetings for prayer and our church meetings.

God’s plan is for us to have a perfect relationship with other people, too. This is
very important. In every church and every situation when a group of people come together for a purpose you will have problems. People will not agree with one another. One person will hurt another person. Problems will happen. God gives us the methods in the Bible for us to have a close relationship with other people - Christians and non-Christians. God gives us methods on how to solve problems that happen between people. It’s the responsibility of the pastor and Christian leaders to explain about the methods of God and insist that the people live according to those ways in their relationships with one another. Therefore, when we create the vision of our church, the vision must include a goal to have a close relationship with God and a good relationship with all other people.

Rule Over the Earth, Yourself and Satan

God called Adam and Eve and all of His followers to be winners and have success in life. God does not want this world or our sinful nature or Satan to defeat us or stop us from fulfilling His plan on the earth. Some people live according to the customs of their own country. If these customs are opposed to God’s ways this action is wrong. We must change from our old ways and not allow those old ways to rule over us. God reveals His methods in the Bible to help us rule over the ways of this world, our own sinful nature, and Satan and evil spirits. Therefore, as pastors and leaders in the church we must train the people in God’s methods to rule over these things.

Reproduce These Things in the Lives of Other People

As we begin to grow as a Christian we should begin to reflect God’s character in our actions. We should have a closer relationship with God than before and we should learn how to solve problems between us and other people and have a close relationship with them. We should also have the ability to rule over problems that we meet. We should be able to understand the ways of this world and the ways of God and choose to follow the ways of God rather than the ways of this world. Also, we should be able to rule over our own sinful nature and not commit the same kind of sins we used to commit. As we grow as a Christian God wants the old Christians to help the new Christians grow like this, too. This means the old Christians should meet with the new Christians and teach them, pray with them and serve God together with them.

Creating Our Church Program and Schedule to Fulfill God’s Purpose on the Earth

When we create the vision of our church and our church program, we should do so with the goal of fulfilling God’s purpose on the earth. For example, we should include the following in the activities of our church:
1. Teaching about righteousness, holiness and how to be an example of a Christian.
2. Meet with Christians and talk to them about their character and help them make a plan to change their character.
3. Do not allow sinful actions to continue in your church.
4. Create opportunities for people to pray together, play together and work together so they can build close relationships with each other.
5. Have meetings for prayer so the new Christians can watch the actions of the mature Christians and listen to them pray so they can learn how to pray themselves.
6. Teach about relationships in the church and explain God’s goal for relationships and how to solve problems between people.
7. Teach people how to rule over the problems they meet in this life rather than to continue to live under the authority of this world and their sinful nature.
8. Explain about good traditions and traditions which are opposed to God.
9. Create Christian traditions in your church and encourage the members of your church to create Christian traditions in their families.
10. Teach people how to fight against Satan and rebuke evil spirits. Teach them about spiritual warfare.
11. Pray together as a church against the power of Satan.
12. Go to various places and pray for that place and against the spiritual powers in that place.
13. Create opportunities like small groups for people to have close relationships and have an opportunity for them to teach each other.
14. Go into the community to serve the community in some way.

How Is Our Church Preparing Our Program to Fulfill God’s Purpose?

1. We teach about righteousness, spiritual warfare, relationships etc. during our Sunday morning meetings. Each week the pastor writes his lessons in a book to help him remember what he has taught about. From time-to-time he notices that he hasn’t taught about an important subject so he plans to teach about that.
2. We meet for prayer twice a week so new Christians can learn how to pray and our relationship with the Lord can grow.
3. We open several special classes each Sunday morning to help people understand these subjects, including relationships in the church, righteousness, how to study the Bible and how to have a quiet time with the Lord.
4. We encourage the members of our church to meet in small groups each week to help them have a close relationship with one another and to give an opportunity for the old Christians to teach the new Christians.
5. From time-to-time our church plays together or eats together to help us build relationship together.
6. As a pastor there are times when I must correct the attitude or relationships of
some of the members of our church to help them continue to walk the path of righteousness.

Some Question:

1. What verses in the Bible tell us about God’s plan?
2. What four words describe God’s plan for the earth?
3. What can we do to help people represent God in their character?
4. What can we do to help people have a close relationship with God?
5. What can we do to help people have a perfect relationship with other people?
6. What can we do to help people rule over the ways of this world, their own sinful nature and Satan?
7. How can we help mature Christians help new Christians grow as a Christian and obey God?
We know that God wants to establish His Kingdom on the earth. In fact, He will establish His Kingdom on the earth. How will He do that? Will God choose a government to make laws according to His Word and that government rule the earth for God? No. Will God choose one nation and call that nation to represent Him on the earth? No. This is God’s method: Matthew 16:18. Jesus said He will build His church and the powers of Hades will not overcome it. The church is God’s method for establishing His kingdom on this earth. The church is the power of God on the earth. The church is the representative of God on the earth.

1. **Adam and Eve Failed.** In the beginning God called Adam and Eve to represent Him on the earth. Genesis 1:26-28. He gave them power and authority and revealed His plan to them. God’s plan was for Adam and Eve to establish His kingdom on the earth. But as you know, God’s enemy - Satan, deceived Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve choose to fulfill the desires of their soul and body rather than follow their spirit and God’s ways. Therefore, they failed.

2. **Israel Failed.** God called Abraham to be the father of a great nation - Israel. God’s plan was for the descendants of Abraham - Israel - to establish His kingdom on the earth. God gave them His law and kings and leaders to preach the good news of His kingdom throughout the earth. But as you know, Israel failed, too. They always choose to follow their own ways rather than God’s ways. They did not obey God, worshipped false gods and did not bring God’s message of salvation and His kingdom to other nations.

3. **Jesus Christ will not fail.** Finally, God became a man. He came to do what Adam and Eve and Israel did not do. Jesus walked throughout Israel preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Mark 1:15. Adam and Eve and Israel did not overcome Satan’s temptations, but Jesus overcame. Jesus called twelve men to become His disciples and follow Him. He showed them God’s ways and gave them authority to establish the Kingdom of God. Everywhere Jesus and His disciples went they destroyed the Kingdom of Satan and established the Kingdom of God. They healed the sick, cast out evil spirits and comforted people who were discouraged. They brought spiritual light into spiritual darkness. They taught the Word of God and showed people how to be free from the power of Satan.
and the power of sin. Finally, Jesus died as the final sacrifice for sins to create a bridge between God and people, rose from the dead three days later, appointed His disciples to go everywhere in the world preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and then He ascended to heaven again. He will wait their until all of His enemies are subdued under His feet. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. Then He will return to this earth, bring all people back to life and judge the sinners and establish His kingdom on this earth for every person who trusts in Him as their Savior. How will Jesus defeat His enemies? Through the church.

The Church is the Power of God on the Earth
Matthew 16:13-19

1. **Jesus Will Build His Church.** Jesus Himself will build His church. How will He do that? By His Holy Spirit. When we become a Christian we receive God’s Holy Spirit - the Spirit of Christ. John 14:15-18. Jesus Himself will come to live in us to do His work through us. John 14:12. As we surrender our life to Jesus, He will work through us and build His church and establish the Kingdom of God on this earth. Jesus will build His church according to His power, His time and His methods as we surrender ourselves to Him and obey Him. We receive His power and methods by the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

2. **The Power of Satan Will Not Stop the Church.** The translators have translated this word as “death” or “the grave.” It is the Greek word Hades and means the place that you cannot see. Hades is the place where the spirits of people go who do not repent and obey Jesus Christ. It is the place where Satan has power. Therefore, we can translate this word as “The power and authority of Satan will not stop the church.”

For many, many years already people and nations have rejected the good news of Jesus Christ and the church. They have killed Christians and destroyed the Bible. They have burned church buildings and persecuted Christians, but the church of Jesus Christ is still growing and filling the earth. The church in China is an example. They rejected the Gospel for many, many years. When the communist started to rule China they persecuted the church, killing Christians and putting them in jail. No one could enter China for many years and preach the Gospel. Finally, when China opened its doors to the West, Christians entered and found thousands of Christians and even though the church was persecuted, it continued to grow. They had no big places to meet. They used to meet in darkness early in the morning on mountains or in secret places. Normal people preached the Gospel and God showed His power and did wonderful miracles. Satan cannot stop the church. Nothing can stop the church. Jesus said He will build His church and the power of Satan will not overcome it.

3. **The Church Has the Keys to the Kingdom of God.** Peter is the first representative of the church. Jesus gave Peter authority to lead the church in Jerusalem. Jesus said He gave keys to Peter. What kind of keys? We use keys to open and close doors. The person who has the keys has authority.
Keys represent authority. Jesus gave the Keys of the Kingdom of God to Peter to open and close doors of opportunity to preach the Gospel and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. All Christians are God’s representatives on the earth. All Christians have the keys to the Kingdom of God. All Christians have the authority to open and close spiritual doors.

4. **The Church Has Authority to Bind and Release.** What do we bind? We bind Satan’s power. Jesus gives the church authority over Satan and evil spirits like He gave His first disciples power and authority over Satan. We have authority to command the spirits of darkness to leave and stop their evil work. We have authority to release people from the power of Satan. How do we do this? By prayer, fasting, and declaring the Word of God.

God has no other method to establish His kingdom on the earth except the church. Nowadays God doesn't call one nation or one government to establish His kingdom. He calls people from every nation - leaders and normal people - to be added to His church. He sends His Holy Spirit to live within these people and gives them power and authority to bind and release. When they submit themselves to Him and obey Him He will live His life through them, destroy the power of Satan and establish His kingdom on this earth in the lives and hearts of the people of the earth.

Questions:

1. What is God’s method for establishing His Kingdom on this earth?
2. In the beginning, who did God call to establish His kingdom on this earth? Did they succeed or fail? Why?
3. After God called Adam and Eve, whom did He call to establish His kingdom on the earth? Did they fail or succeed? Why?
4. Explain God’s final plan for establishing His kingdom on the earth?
5. How will Jesus build His church?
6. How has some people, kingdoms and countries tried to stop the Kingdom of God? Did they succeed?
7. What does it mean to have the keys of the Kingdom of God?
Charles McCaul

Charles McCaul has been married to Cynthia McCaul since 1974. They have four children. After serving as an assistant pastor at Valley Christian Center in Harrisburg, Oregon for 4 years and Eugene Christian Fellowship in Eugene, Oregon for 14 years they moved their family of 4 to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1995 where they assisted in laying the foundations and building up what is now the largest local church in Cambodia, New Life Fellowship, and serving on the Apostolic Team of New Life Fellowship of Churches in Cambodia. Chuck is an author of more than 25 book and booklets focusing on Christian Leadership, Local Church Issues, Personal Growth and Bible-Related Studies. Many of them have been written for the Cambodian Context and have been translated into the Cambodian Language. Charles is also director of the Cambodian Leadership Institute.

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Many written, audio and video lessons are often available in both English and Khmer Language.