

Old Landmarkism – What is it?

Chapter 2 – 30 Minutes

BISHOP DOGGETT'S POSITION

- The apostolic model must be followed in order to have a church of Christ
- Members professing the religion of Christ may congregate for the purpose of worship but will Not be a church of Christ unless organized on apostolic model
- These statements make it plain that a lodge made up of Christians fails to make that assembly a Church because not scripturally organized as a Church.
- Bodies missing marks of a church of Christ does Not mean people are unsaved

ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE LORD'S CHURCH AND KINGDOM

Mark First: The Church and Kingdom of Christ is a Divine Institution

--- Proofs: Daniel 2:44-45; Matt 16:19; Hebrews 3:3-6

- 1) God gave a pattern to Moses and David to build the tabernacle and temple
 - Instructions as those for the altar teach that the pattern is Not to be modified
 - See Exod 20:25, "If thou lift up thy tool upon it thou hast polluted it."
- 2) Men who setup any form of church and influence men to join them, act in open rebellion to the only King of Zion; deceiving those who would follow Christ.
 - The Church was designed by infinite wisdom to meet needs of all times until the end of the world, to suggest changes have become necessary insults God.
- 3) Organizations bearing the name of Christ, but devised by men, are counterfeits.
 - Human societies are but the expression of human opinion.
 - To observe and obey them amounts to obeying the men who established them.
 - "...his servants ye are to whom ye obey...", Romans 6:16
 - We reject Christ as King and choose men for our masters when we do so.
- 4) Catholic, Protestant, and those aligned with them conform to a pattern of man
 - All their own standard church histories frankly admit this fact
 - "They are an organized muster against the Church and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ," Bro Bright of N.Y. They shed the blood of the Lord's brethren.

Mark Second: It is a Visible Institution

- An institution or organization must be visible.
- The Kingdom of Christ is an institution and an organization, so it is visible.
- Daniel 2:44-45 says He "set it up" meaning He built it; therefore, it is visible.
- Every term used to describe it necessitates that it must be visible
- Kingdom of God, of Heaven, of Christ; Bride, Wife, Church, House, etc...
- The Church has a specified organization, officers, faith, laws, ordinances, and a living membership so it has to be visible.
- The Lord has been constituted King of only one Kingdom, seeing it is visible there can be No invisible Kingdom.
- The invisible idea is an invention employed to bolster erroneous theories.

Mark Third: Its Locality Is Upon This Earth

The use of the words "Church" and "Kingdom"

- They meant the same thing when there was only one Church.
- As soon as the Church was multiplied, a distinction arose.
- The Kingdom now embraces all true Churches of like belief and practice.
- As the U.S. is made up of 50 states, so the Kingdom is made up of Churches.
- Just as a person must be a citizen of one of the states to be a citizen of the US, so a person must be a member of a true Church to be a citizen of Kingdom.
- Baptism is an ordinance of each local Church, NOT of the Kingdom.
- We are baptized into His Church which is His body, Gal 3:27.
- So then, the locality of Christ's Church and Kingdom is this earth.
- All the subjects of His Kingdom are here on the earth.
- All the work of His Church is here on the earth.
- Psalms chp 2 points out that the Father gave the Son the earth as the seat of His throne and kingdom. He will rule till all enemies are placed under His feet.
- When the reign of Christ ends, the kingdom will be given up to the Father and the Godhead will rule with undivided scepter as before sin entered.

CLOSING POINTS

- Christ's Kingdom is on the earth; therefore, there can be No kingdom in heaven
- [1Co 15:24] Then [cometh] the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
- Likewise, the Lord taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done"
- When the Father's will is done on the earth as in heaven, the earth will be as much like heaven as any other place in the universe.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Bishop Doggett's position on the consistency of a true Church?
2. What would a group of saved people at a fraternal gathering fail be a Church?
3. What do men do who setup their own Church and influence others to join?
4. What do men suggest about the design of God who setup their own Church?
5. What are examples of the Church teaching us that it is a visible organization?
6. When was the Church and the Kingdom the same thing?
7. How does one become a citizen of the Lord's Kingdom?

OPTIONAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT

In 2 pages or less, use the information in this chapter to describe the location in which the Lord now reigns in His Kingdom, what will happen to it when that reign is concluded, and how the nature of this reign impacts the idea of a universal, invisible Kingdom.