

*Acts 2:42-47, John 17:20-23*

# KINGDOM COME: An Alternate City

MESSAGE BY PASTOR JONATHAN RIDDLE

## KINGDOM COME: AN ALTERNATE CITY – September 2023

St. Augustine wrote of two cities in his book *The City of God* - the City of Man and the City of God.

The City of Man is the earthly city built around man and man's desires. This is built around the lowest common denominator is individual pleasure and happiness. The City of Man consists of people who have immersed themselves in the cares and pleasures of this present & passing world.

The City of God is the alternate city devoted to God and making Him famous. A city built around love of God and love of thy neighbor. A city built on penitence, grace and mercy, never compulsion or greedy to advance its goals.

Accordingly, both these cities have been formed by two loves: the city of man by the love of self (even to the contempt of God) and the heavenly city by the love of God (even to the contempt of self). One delights in its own strength, represented in the persons of its rulers; the other says to God, "I will love You, O Lord, my strength."

**Read Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 28:18-20**

1. In Acts 2:42 it says; "All the believers devoted themselves"....what did they devote themselves too?

2. Pastor Riddle mentioned the three "L's" that form the church - Learning, Loving, and Liturgy. Where are each of these found in verse 42?
  
3. The early believers devoted themselves to God and each other by defending His image stamped on every human being. Why is that so important?
  
4. They devoted themselves to "fellowship." What is true fellowship and why is it so difficult?
  
5. They devoted themselves to liturgy in breaking bread and the Lord's supper, and to prayer. Why are both of these practices so essential to a church?
  
6. Pastor Riddle read from an early church document called The Epistle to Diognetus. What stands out in this letter explaining why Christianity was spreading so dramatically?

*Christians pass their lives here on earth but their citizenship is in heaven.*

*They live on their own land but they live as aliens foreigners.*

*They share a common table but not a common bed.*

*They love all people, yet they are hated by all people.*

*They are treated outrageously but they behave respectfully.*

*When they do good they are attacked, and when they are attacked they do good.*

*They obey the prescribed laws, but at the same time they surpass those laws by their lives.*

*They are short of everything but they have plenty of everything.*

