

What dangers do you think there might be, if we overemphasise the 'now' of God's kingdom?

What dangers do you think there might be, if we overemphasise the 'not yet' of God's kingdom?

4. Read Romans 8:18-27. As Christians, we live in the tension of a kingdom that is 'now but not yet'. *After taking some time to individually write down your thoughts about the following 2 questions, share your ideas with each other and then finish by taking some time to pray together.*
 - What are the implications for prayer generally, of living in the tension of God's kingdom that is 'now but not yet'?

 - Think of something for which you've been praying. As you reflect on living in the tension of God's kingdom that is 'now but not yet', how might this shape your prayers in this particular area?



A Life of Prayer

Growth Group Study Guide

Week 3: Your Kingdom Come

6 June 2021

Romans 8:18-27

Series Overview:

Prayer is not an optional activity of a 'Follower of Jesus', it is central to our faith. Yet many of us struggle to maintain a regular, dynamic prayer life.

We at Lismore Baptist Church have dedicated this present season to listening and responding to God, therefore we will spend this time through our preaching and teaching ministry focusing on prayer, with the hope of God transforming not only our individual prayer life, but also that of our faith community.

We invite you to join with us to explore the possibility of real and lasting prayer transformation, through our weekly Sunday sermons, regular Growth Groups, and our personal devotional times.

May God bless you.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

This, then, is how you should pray:

*'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

It's good, in a series on prayer, to spend some time on the Lord's Prayer. Actually, you could do a whole series on just that prayer! Here, though, we're going to focus in on one particular part of the Lord's Prayer – we're going to explore what it means for us to pray for God's *'kingdom to come'*.

Maybe it's one of those parts of the prayer that we kind of just say without thinking too much about what it means, but the reason we're going to focus on it now, is because it just might be a key to understanding a big part of what prayer is all about. It helps us understand the 'bigger picture' of prayer and a lot of what we see in places like the Psalms.

What's going on when we're praying that God's kingdom will come?

1. Both last week and this week we provided a simple definition of 'God's kingdom'. This week we made special mention of Genesis chapters 1 and 2. How would you explain 'God's kingdom' to a friend who isn't a Christian?
2. Your friend tells you that's an intriguing concept, but asks what it has to do with life as we know it today, with all the struggles along with the joys? Explain in your own words what you would want your friend to know.
3. In the sermon on Sunday, God's kingdom was described as 'now but not yet'. Different Bible passages point towards God's kingdom as having already arrived in Jesus, while others point to a future time when God's kingdom will come. Next to each of the following passages, note whether they point to the 'now' or 'not yet' of the kingdom:

Ephesians 2:6

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

Mark 1:15

Ephesians 1:3

1 Peter 2:20b-21

Revelation 21:1-4

Luke 4:18-21
