

Theme: After the fall, God instituted a distinction between the kingdom of man, the realm of common grace ruled through general revelation, and the kingdom of God, the realm of saving grace ruled through special revelation, in order to preserve the human race and redeem His people.

I. Intro – Review of Two Kingdoms

A. Theme statement

B. Last time - one ruler, two kingdoms, two purposes

1. One Ruler over all - Our Triune God! (Mt 28:18)
2. KOM - preserve race, culture - all humans (Noah, Cain)
3. KOG - redeem God's people - only Christians (Abraham; Seth)

C. Today - how does God rule these realms?

1. Does He rule them through the same means?
2. Different purposes - different means of ruling?
3. As citizens of both kingdoms how do we interact with each?

II. KOM - General Revelation & Common Grace

A. Kingdom of man - ruled by spec rev & common grace

B. Our text - the law written everywhere (Rom 2:14-15)

1. Gentiles - people not under covenant of grace
2. Do not have the law - not given God's Word
3. Do by nature.. law written on hearts - natural law
4. Do not have to have Scripture to know right & wrong!

C. General revelation

1. Key points

- a. Universally available & applicable - creation & human nature
- b. General in what is known
- c. Does not deal with salvation, specific theology

2. Scripture (Rom 2:14-15; 1:19-20; Ps 19:1-6)

D. Common grace

1. Definition - restrain sin; blessings/gifts; not salvation
2. Scripture - Rom 2:14-15; Acts 14:17; Noah
3. Allows gifts, government, knowledge, medicine, etc

III. KOG - Special Revelation & Saving Grace

A. KOG - ruled by special revelation & saving grace

B. Special revelation

1. Key points

- a. Not universally available (yet) - Scripture
- b. Specifically given to deal with salvation
- c. Detailed theology, anthropology, soteriology, etc.

2. Scripture - Rom 2:14-15; Psalm 19:1-6; covenants

C. Saving grace

1. Distinct from common grace in purpose, recipients
2. It removes sin; salvation; only believers
3. Scripture - Eph 2:4-5; Rom 3:21-24
4. Tied to Scripture; deals with salvation

IV. The Relationship Between GR/CG & SR/SG

- A. GR/CG and SR/SG - their relation (see notes)
- B. Consider Paul in Acts 13 and Acts 17 - very different!
- C. Table of KOG/KOM - evangelical discomfort
 - 1. Both are equally God's work
 - 2. Both are critically important
 - 3. We are MUCH more comfortable with KOG column
 - 4. Cultural work is part of KOM column
 - 5. Trust God's general revelation & common grace!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see God rules KOG & KOM - but through different means?
 - 1. God rules both Kingdoms - every square inch
 - 2. But He chose to rule through different means
 - 3. God rules KOM through GR and CG
 - 4. KOM leaders do not have to be Christians, believe Word
 - 5. Scripture is totally true - but not recognized in KOM
 - 6. This is not pragmatics - it is GOD's design
- B. Living as citizens of KOG & KOM
 - 1. Remember this from previous weeks
 - 2. Must remember which kingdom we are working in at given time
 - 3. Church, Christian family - Scripture

- 4. KOM - appeal to CG and GR
- 5. Paul did this in evangelism in Acts 17!!!
- 6. In KOG we do not work with unbelievers
- 7. Can't work with unbelievers for spiritual renewal
- 8. In KOM we work with unbelievers
- 9. Based on CG & GR - on whole range of issues

C. Prayer for wisdom to walk as dual citizens

A Tale of Two Kingdoms (Part 2)

Romans 2:14-15
Psalm 19
October 31, 2010
Closing Prayer
Numbers 6:24-26

After the fall, God instituted a distinction between the kingdom of man, the realm of common grace ruled through general revelation, and the kingdom of God, the realm of saving grace ruled through special revelation.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18

The kingdom of man is the temporary realm **comprised of all humans, believers and unbelievers**, where God rules through general revelation and common grace **for the preservation and flourishing of the human race and culture**.

The kingdom of God is the eternal realm **comprised of His people alone**, where God rules through special revelation and saving grace **for the redemption of His chosen people**.

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

The heavens declare the glory of God; **the skies proclaim** the work of his hands. 2 Day after day **they pour forth speech**; night after night **they display knowledge**. 3 **There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard**. 4 **Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world**. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for **the sun**, 5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 **It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat**. Psalm 19:1-6

Common grace refers to the aspect of God's grace that restrains sin and its effects, gives general blessings to humanity and creation so that they can partially fulfill God's original design for them, but is not part of salvation itself.

17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. **The statutes of the LORD** are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 **The precepts of the LORD** are right, giving joy to the heart. **The commands of the LORD** are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. **The ordinances of the LORD** are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Psalm 19:7-11

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions--**it is by grace you have been saved.... For it is by grace you have been saved**, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:4-5; 8-9

But now **a righteousness from God**, apart from law, has been made known, **to which the Law and the Prophets testify**. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are **justified freely by his grace** through the **redemption** that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:21-24

1. Both general revelation and special revelation are given by God and are fully true
2. Because general revelation and special revelation both come from God they will not conflict with one another when properly understood and interpreted
3. The church - as part of the Kingdom of God - is ruled by God through the Scriptures
4. The culture of which we are a part - the kingdom of man - is ruled by God through general revelation and common grace
5. Our cultural work is done through common grace and general revelation

Kingdom of God	Kingdom of Man
Redemption	Creation
God's special revelation - Scripture	God's general revelation - creation
Saving grace	Common grace
Deity of Christ	Humanity of Christ
Redemption/salvation	Human life