

The Indestructible Kingdom

Heb. 12:28

Introduction:

- A. Pessimism concerning the church can be found among many brethren.
 - 1. The outlook has become fearful and doubtful
 - 2. The mood has become negative.
 - 3. The speech has become problem focused.
 - 4. The condition of many local churches and individual Christians fuels this pessimism
- B. Pessimism is unjustified when it comes to the universal church - the kingdom of God.
 - 1. The kingdom of God is indestructible (Dan. 2:44; Luke 1:31-33; Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28).
 - 2. Earthly kingdoms will rise and fall, but the kingdom of God will stand.
 - 3. Local churches will rise and fall, the universal church will stand.
 - 4. The kingdom will be here when Christ comes again (1 Cor. 15:24)
- C. Let us note that all *efforts* to destroy it have failed so far.

Discussion:

I. No *Earthly Power* Has Destroyed It.

- A. The combined power of Jerusalem and Rome did not prevent its establishment.
 - 1. Herod's killing of John the Baptist – first preached “kingdom at hand” (Matt. 3:2)
 - 2. Jerusalem's and Rome's role in the crucifixion of Jesus.
- B. The combined power of Jerusalem and Rome did not destroy it after its establishment.
 - 1. The early Jewish persecution (Acts 4, 5, 7, 8)
 - 2. The Roman persecution (Nero, others, cf. Book of Revelation)

II. No *False Teacher* Has Destroyed It.

- A. The danger of false teachers.
 - 1. Jesus' warnings (Matt. 7:15; 24:11, 24)
 - 2. Peter's warning (2 Pet. 2:1-4).
 - 3. John's warning (1 John 4:1)
- B. The power of false teachers.
 - 1. To deceive and divide (Rom. 16:17-18)
 - 2. To destroy souls (2 Pet. 2:1-2)
- C. As dangerous and powerful as they are – the kingdom still stands.

III. No *Internal Problem* Has Destroyed It.

- A. Jerusalem's internal problems.
 - 1. Ananias and Sappharia (Acts 5)
 - 2. The murmuring (Acts 6)
- B. Corinth's internal problems.
 - 1. Division (1 Cor. 1)
 - 2. Carnality/immaturity (1 Cor. 3).
 - 3. Fornication (1 Cor. 5)
 - 4. Lawsuits between brethren (1 Cor. 6).
 - 5. Lord's supper abuse (1 Cor. 11)
 - 6. Problems over spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12-14).
 - 7. Denial of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12)
- C. Judaizing teachers (Acts 15:1; Gal. 2:3-5)
- D. Churches of Asia.
 - 1. Ephesus – left first love (Rev. 2:4-5).
 - 2. Pergamos – doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitans (Rev. 2:14-15)
 - 3. Thyatira – woman Jezebel (Rev. 2:20).
 - 4. Sardis – dead (Rev. 3:1) – few not defiled (v. 4)
 - 5. Laodiceans - lukewarm (Rev. 3:15).

Conclusion:

- A. Someone said, “The church has been a divine institution or brethren would have destroyed long ago.
- B. Brethren may err, but the foundation stands sure (2 Pet. 2:18-19).