The Paradise of God

A "Country, a Kingdom with streets of gold," where there are no tears and no pain, where death is no more, may well catch the attention of many of us. (And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4; the street of the city was pure gold. Revelation 21:21)

We can say without fear of being wrong that there is no one who, shown a country offering a life full of joy, free of trouble, free of suffering and free of death, would not long for such a Kingdom.

But this Kingdom with its "streets of gold" also holds things of a spiritual order, things the human mind struggles to grasp and finds hard to understand, things that to most of our fellow men are foolishness. (The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him. 1 Corinthians 2:14)

These things from above are completely different from the things found in the world we were born into. That is why, for many of us, "the Kingdom of God" remains a great mystery. (Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9)

We notice that when we are asked to give an answer about what will come once this life is over, and what we must do to live forever in the Kingdom of God, the vast majority of people are deeply confused. Because the Scriptures are not known, we can see today how many multitudes of people are swayed by all kinds of theories that explain to us how one can reach the Kingdom of God.

Most have come to be convinced that we will obtain salvation (which for many consists only in the forgiveness of sins) if we admire God for what He has done for us, if we believe in the sacrifice on the cross. Many believe that if we confess our sins and have a form of godliness consisting of gratitude for what the Lord Jesus did for us, that is enough to give us free entrance into His eternal Kingdom.

Most of us stop at repentance, at the work of the cross… at the covenant made in the waters of baptism, at the forgiveness of sins. All that remains, then, is to suppose that God will make us perfect by some formula unknown to us, which He will apply after a person dies.

And this first part is roughly where most of us stay. We went to church, we had our seat, we confessed our sins, we were baptized, we sang, we upheld the teachings of the church we belong to, we lived a religious life, and so we will enter the Kingdom of God.

For most people, this is where the work of salvation ends, without their realizing that **God's plan** provides both for the restoration and for the perfecting of a person's character.

Almost no one believes that, in order to be found worthy of the life that awaits us in His eternal Kingdom, we must grow until we reach the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (And he gave some, apostles; and some… pastors and teachers; **for the perfecting of the saints**… till we all come… unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.** Ephesians 4:11-13)

Source: *The Paradise of God* — Unmodified Word
unmodifiedword.com/articles/the-paradise-of-god