

A Study On Entry into kingdom of God

By Pastor Harry Richardson

Entering or inheriting the kingdom of God is the privilege of those who acknowledge and live by the rule of God and have become part of the new order of salvation and righteousness in Christ.

Entry into the kingdom of God is of vital importance

It is costly

[Mt 13:44](#); [Ac 14:22](#)

Matthew 13:44 (NASB95) — 44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Acts 14:22 (NASB95) — 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

See also [Mt 8:19–20](#); [Mt 13:45–46](#); [Lk 18:29–30](#); [2 Th 1:5](#); [Re 1:9](#)

Matthew 8:19–20 (NASB95) — 19 Then a scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” **20** Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Matthew 13:45–46 (NASB95) — 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, **46** and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Luke 18:29–30 (NASB95) — 29 And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, **30** who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”

2 Thessalonians 1:5 (NASB95) — 5 This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

Revelation 1:9 (NASB95) — 9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

It is a matter of urgency

[Lk 9:59–62](#)

Luke 9:59–62 (NASB95) — **59** And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” **60** But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” **61** Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” **62** But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Conditions of entry into the kingdom of God

Childlike trust

[Mk 10:15](#)

Mark 10:15 (NASB95) — **15** “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.”

See also [Mt 18:3](#)

Matthew 18:3 (NASB95) — **3** and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

To be born again of God’s Spirit

[Jn 3:3](#)

John 3:3 (NASB95) — **3** Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

See also [Jn 3:5](#); [1 Co 15:50](#)

John 3:5 (NASB95) — **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:50 (NASB95) — **50** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Obedience to God’s will

[Mt 7:21](#)

Matthew 7:21 (NASB95) — **21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Warnings about entry into the kingdom of God

The way is narrow

[Lk 13:24–28](#)

Luke 13:24–28 (NASB95) — **24** “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. **25** “Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ **26** “Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; **27** and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ **28** “In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

See also [Mt 7:13–14](#); [Mt 23:13](#)

Matthew 7:13–14 (NASB95) — **13** “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14** “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 23:13 (NASB95) — **13** “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

The wicked will not inherit the kingdom

[1 Co 6:9–10](#)

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NASB95) — **9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

See also [Mt 5:20](#); [Mk 9:43–47](#); [Ga 5:19–21](#); [Eph 5:5](#)

Matthew 5:20 (NASB95) — **20** “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 9:43–47 (NASB95) — **43** “If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, **44** where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT

QUENCHED. **45** “If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, **46** where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED. **47** “If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,

Galatians 5:19–21 (NASB95) — **19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5 (NASB95) — **5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

The need for readiness and watchfulness

[Mt 24:42–44](#)

Matthew 24:42–44 (NASB95) — **42** “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. **43** “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **44** “For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

See also [Mt 24:37–39](#); [Mt 25:13](#); [Lk 12:35–40](#)

Matthew 24:37–39 (NASB95) — **37** “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. **38** “For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **39** and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 25:13 (NASB95) — **13** “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Luke 12:35–40 (NASB95) — **35** “Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. **36** “Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. **37** “Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. **38** “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are

those slaves. **39** “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. **40** “You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

Entry is not based on outward appearances nor granted to all who claim to know the Lord

[Mt 7:21–23](#)

Matthew 7:21–23 (NASB95) — **21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ **23** “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

See also [Mt 13:24–30](#); [Mt 13:47–50](#); [Lk 13:25–27](#)

Matthew 13:24–30 (NASB95) — **24** Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** “But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. **26** “But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. **27** “The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ **28** “And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ **29** “But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’ ”

Matthew 13:47–50 (NASB95) — **47** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; **48** and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. **49** “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, **50** and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 13:25–27 (NASB95) — **25** “Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ **26** “Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in

our streets'; **27** and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

The kingdom of God is a kingdom of grace

It belongs to those qualified by God

[Col 1:12–13](#)

Colossians 1:12–13 (NASB95) — **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. **13** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

See also [Lk 12:32](#); [Lk 22:29–30](#)

Luke 12:32 (NASB95) — **32** "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.

Luke 22:29–30 (NASB95) — **29** and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you **30** that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

It belongs to the poor and the poor in spirit

[Lk 6:20](#)

Luke 6:20 (NASB95) — **20** And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

See also [Mt 11:5](#); [Mt 19:23–24](#) It is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God; [Jas 2:5](#); [Jas 5:1](#)

Matthew 11:5 (NASB95) — **5** the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

Matthew 19:23–24 (NASB95) — **23** And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

James 2:5 (NASB95) — **5** Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

James 5:1 (NASB95) — **1** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

It belongs to the childlike

[Mt 19:14](#)

Matthew 19:14 (NASB95) — 14 But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

It belongs to sinners

[Mk 2:17](#)

Mark 2:17 (NASB95) — 17 And hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

See also [Mt 21:31](#)

Matthew 21:31 (NASB95) — 31 “Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.

It belongs to those who are persecuted for Jesus Christ’s sake

[Mt 5:10](#)

Matthew 5:10 (NASB95) — 10 “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It belongs to Gentiles as well as to Jews

[Mt 8:11](#)

Matthew 8:11 (NASB95) — 11 “I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

See also [Mt 21:43](#); [Mt 22:8–10](#) those initially uninvited represent the Gentiles; [Lk 14:21–24](#)

Matthew 21:43 (NASB95) — 43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

Matthew 22:8–10 (NASB95) — 8 “Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. **9** ‘Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ **10** “Those

slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

Luke 14:21–24 (NASB95) — 21 “And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ **22** “And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ **23** “And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. **24** ‘For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’ ”