

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM II

Rev. Matthew L. Watley
Executive Minister
Reid Temple AME Church

Tony Evans - Kingdom Disciples

A kingdom disciple can be defined as a believer in Christ who takes part in the spiritual developmental process of progressively learning to live all of life in submission to Jesus Christ. The goal of a kingdom disciple is to have a transformed life and to replicate God's kingdom values in the lives of others. Through His kingdom disciples, God exercises His rule from heaven to earth.

- **Proverbs 4:18** But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun,
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

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Whenever religious activity, however sincere, trumps relationship, the victory of Christ is no longer experienced in the believer's life. One of the greatest dangers in our churches today is for religion to replace an intimate relationship with the Savior. By religion, I am referencing the external adherence to exercises, codes, or practices in the name of God yet apart from God. Religion is anything you do for God that does not stem out of a heart connected to God.

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- **Luke 15:17-20** ¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” ²⁰ “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

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Christians are people of the truth and people of the Book. Jesus' commands that we are to obey are contained in the Word. But the goal is not content alone. The church today has too many "spiritual bulimics" who take in the Word at church on Sunday, but then throw it up as soon as they get home so it doesn't do them any good. The goal of biblical teaching is to combine information and knowledge with skill in applying the truth to daily life. If you are sick and need surgery, you don't just want a doctor with an academic medical degree. You also want one who has skillfully performed the surgery before.

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Acts 8:29-33 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; *And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*” ³³ *In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.*”

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- **Acts 8:34-37** ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.