

Week 3

Discussion – 17 November 2002

1. **The Kingdom in evangelism and making disciples**
 - **Good news:** The Kingdom is a common basis for evangelism but not often explained in those terms
 - **The Kingdom *is* making disciples:**
 - Needs to be evident in our lives, not just words
 - Isn't just a birth, but also helping people to 'grow up' as Christians
 - **Difficult concept to grasp for western thinking**
 - **Jesus showed Kingdom first through signs**

2. **Eschatology**
 - **Gives us perspective:** God's complete justice and reward will come
 - **Context:** Reminds us what we should value—unseen things, losing life to find it
 - **Hope:** If things are not going to plan, reminds us of value

3. **Eternal versus chronological (linear) time**
 - **'We don't know'**
 - **Jesus experienced time as we do**
 - **Jesus did miracles not by virtue of his status as God but by the Spirit:** we can also have his Spirit in our time
 - **Why don't we experience it all now?**
 - Jesus himself could not do miracles at certain times
 - Defeat of Satan's kingdom is still in progress—mopping up after D-Day
 - Delay is short even considering eternal perspective

4. **Implications of mystery of the Kingdom?**
 - **Constant possibility of God breaking in**
 - **'Now, not yet' dynamic**
 - **Holy Spirit can break in today—either as a temporary or the final experience**