

- I. Permanency
 - A. Webster defines permanent as continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change; lasting (also as a long-lasting hair wave or straightening, *permanent wave*)
 - B. Change is hard
 1. Significant (lifestyle-altering) changes in your life are one of the main factors that cause stress
 2. We all like things the way they are; we don't like change, and it is stressful
 3. We can all relate to the change that moving brings
 - i. I moved at ages 5, 11, 12, 17, and I was 19 when I joined the USAF
 - ii. While on active duty, I moved about every 3-4 years until I retired
 - iii. I lived in Littlefield for two years while I attended SIBI
 - iv. I have lived in the same house in Plainview for over 14 years; by far the longest I have ever lived anywhere in my entire life!
 4. I was a big Rush (the progressive rock band) for many years, and in one of their songs, there is a line, "changes aren't permanent, but change is"
 - C. What, in this world, is permanent?
 1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2
 2. Babylon fell in 539 BC (the head of gold)
 3. The Persian empire fell in 334 BC (the chest and arms of silver)
 4. The empire of Greece fell in 146 BC (the middle and thighs of bronze)
 5. The Roman empire fell in 476 AD (the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay)
- II. The Kingdom
 - A. The Kingdom of God is permanent; it is our inheritance
 - B. 1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
 - C. Inheritance
 1. Common in Christian usage (corresponding to the LXX [*Septuagint*]) (the possession of) *transcendent salvation* (as the inheritance of God's children) ¹
 2. When our relatives die, we often get an inheritance
 3. When our physical bodies give out, we will get an inheritance
 - D. Imperishable, undefiled, unfading

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 548.

1. Imperishable – pertaining to imperviousness to corruption and death, *imperishable, incorruptible, immortal*²
 2. undefiled – pure in a religious and moral sense
 3. Unfading – not losing pristine quality or character
 4. These are the characteristics of our inheritance in the Kingdom
 5. It makes sense that the Kingdom shares these characteristics
 6. Daniel 2:44 (ESV)⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,
- E. “The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, but the kingdom of Heaven remains. It is built on a rock, and the Lord is its king and forever and ever He reigns”
- III. Open to All
- A. “The kingdom of God is now open to all, even the vilest may now enter in. There’s a welcome for all who will turn to the Lord. Full salvation and pardon for sin”
 - B. We have all seen signs that say, “everyone welcome”
 - C. The Kingdom sign says “everyone wanted”
 1. God desires is that we all enter His Kingdom
 2. Matthew 7:12–14 (ESV)¹² “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
 3. “Even the vilest may now enter in”
 - i. Who is the worst person you can identify
 - ii. Premeditated Murder? (Paul)
 - iii. Adultery (go and sin no more)
 - iv. In God’s list of sinful behaviors (not all-inclusive), there is gossip as well as murder, disobedient to parents as well as inventors of evil (Romans 1:29-30)
 - v. We cannot think that we are any different because our sin is somehow less ‘vile’ than everyone else’s
 - vi. We have all sinned and deserve death
 4. Romans 5:9–10 (ESV)⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
 5. Romans 6:23 (ESV)²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

² Ibid 155.

- D. Everyone, no matter your heritage, your economic status, your social status, even if you are the so-called black sheep of the family, you have the opportunity to be chosen, a royal priest, holy, to belong to God

IV. Born Again

- A. John 3:1–3 (ESV) ¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- B. Just what is it to be born again? Jesus clearly says that you must be born again to enter the Kingdom (imperishable, undefiled, unfading)
 - 1. Nicodemus didn’t understand and let Jesus know
 - 2. John 3:4–7 (ESV) ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
 - 3. Jesus makes it evident that He is not talking about physical birth, but spiritual birth
 - 4. Peter said we have been ‘born again to a living hope’
 - 5. We must understand that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one (just like those in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost were ‘cut to the heart’)
 - 6. Romans 6:1–2 (ESV) ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
 - 7. We must give up our old self with its sinful lifestyle
 - 8. Romans 6:3–4 (ESV) ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
 - 9. Our old self is dead, and our new self is clothed in Christ
 - 10. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - 11. Galatians 3:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 - 12. We have been set free!
 - 13. Romans 6:5–7 (ESV) ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- C. We must be born again!

- V. It Shall Stand
 - A. God's Kingdom is forever
 - B. God's Kingdom is for everyone