

THE KINGDOM



**The Church and
the Kingdom**

Recap

There are two kingdoms present right now

Pagan: one who lives as if no greater truth or reality is present. Someone who knows the truth yet behaves as if no truth exists

Recap

You know that when you **were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to **mute idols**. **1 Corinthians 12:2****

Recap

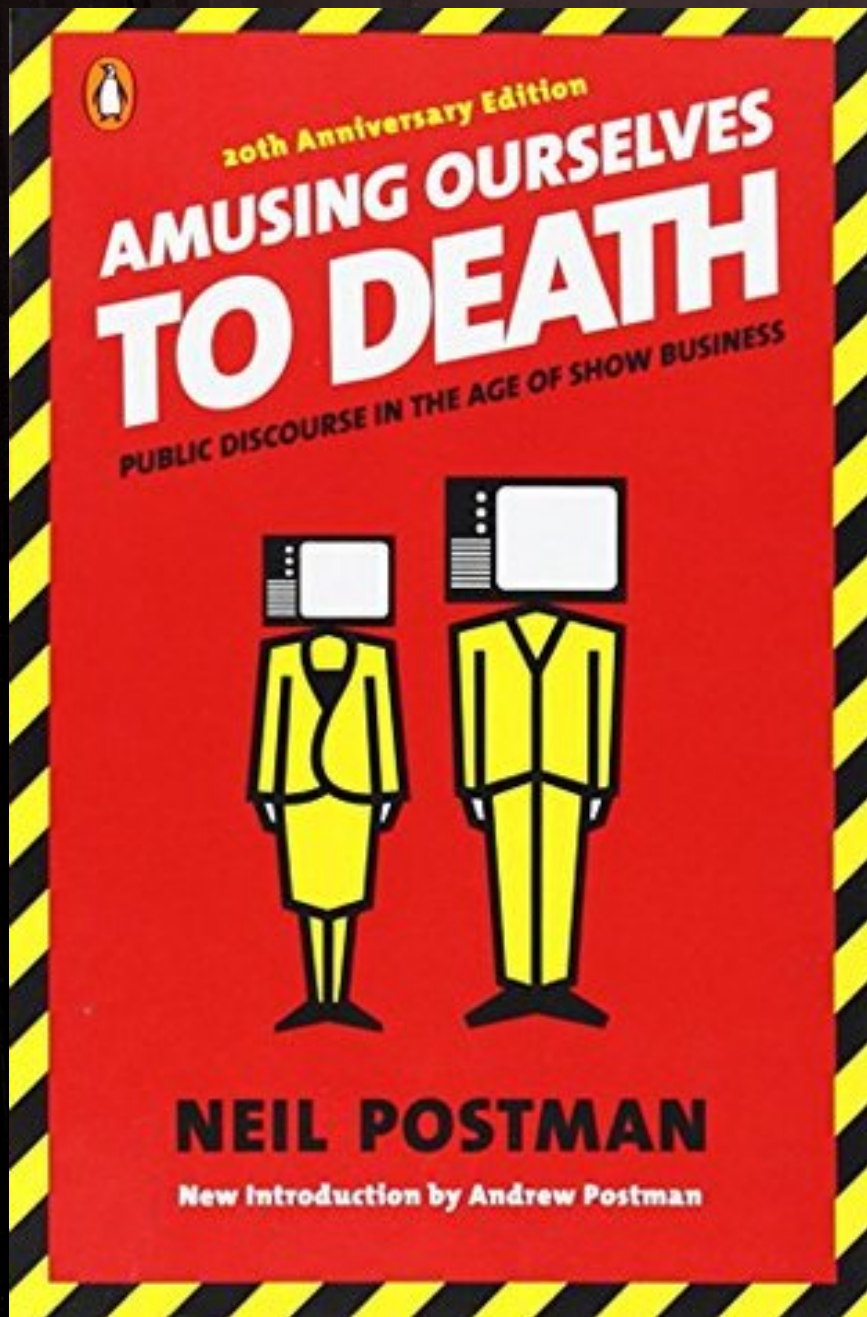
After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days **and spoke about the kingdom of God.** Acts 1:3

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. **He proclaimed the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:30-31

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a church interior. In the center, a group of people has their hands raised in prayer, creating a silhouette against a slightly brighter background. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the hands and deep shadows elsewhere, giving the scene a solemn and spiritual feel.

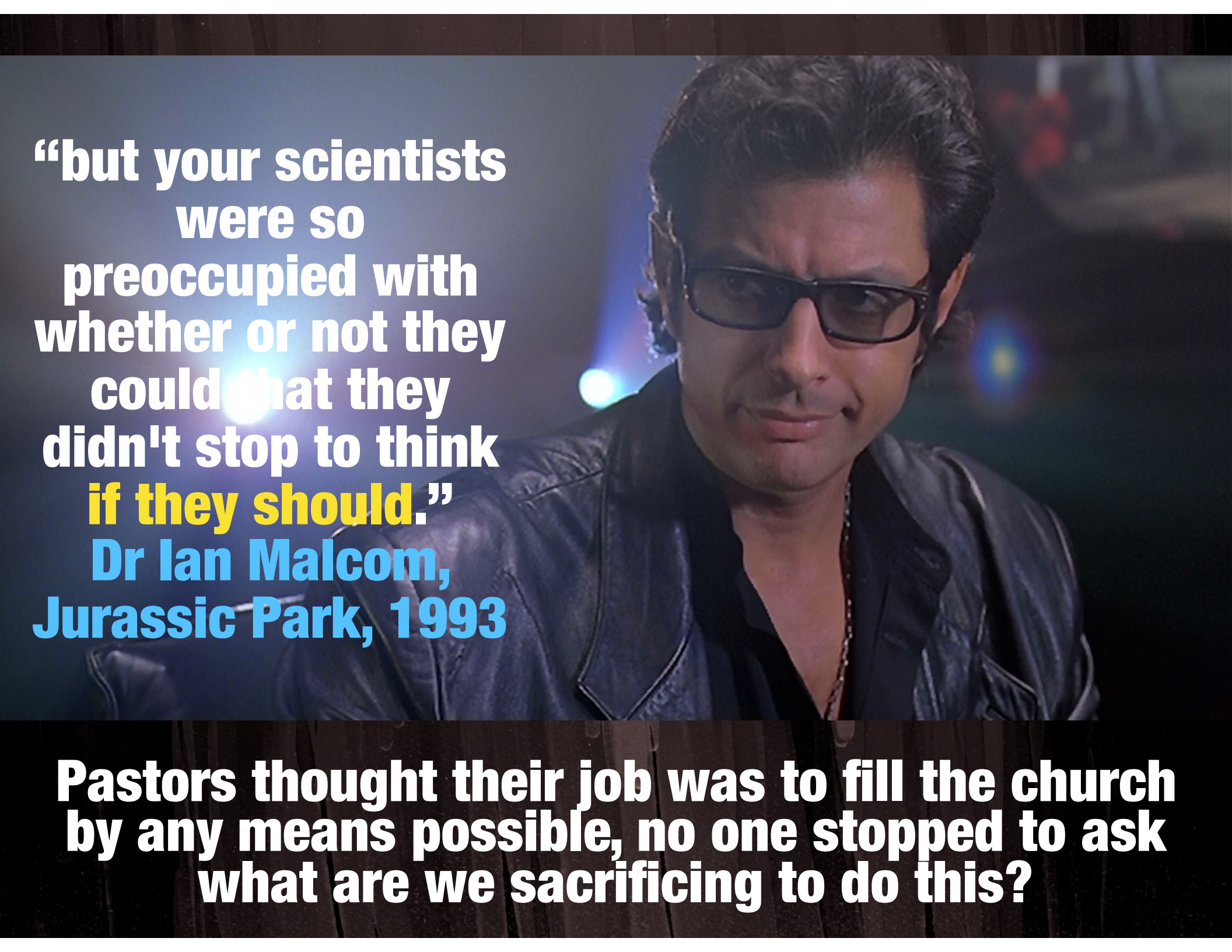
“Heresy of **method may be as deadly as heresy of message.” AW Tozer (1897-1963)**

“If you have to give a **carnival to get people to come to church, then you will have to keep giving carnivals to keep them coming back”
Charles Spurgeon (1833-1892)**



“...religion, like everything else, is presented, quite simply and without apology, **as an entertainment.** Everything that makes religion an historic, profound, sacred human activity is stripped away; there is no ritual, no dogma, no tradition, no theology, and above all, **no sense of spiritual transcendence.**”





**“but your scientists
were so
preoccupied with
whether or not they
could that they
didn't stop to think
if they should.”**

**Dr Ian Malcom,
Jurassic Park, 1993**

**Pastors thought their job was to fill the church
by any means possible, no one stopped to ask
what are we sacrificing to do this?**

North American Christianity got wrapped up in church growth and forgot to think about spiritual growth (discipleship)

What has happened is a fundamental flip in how we view the church and how we engage in it

Fruitless Faith

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. **Matthew 3:8**

By their fruit you will recognize them **Matthew 7:16**

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for **a tree is recognized by its fruit.** **Matthew 12:33**

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree **that does not produce good fruit** **Luke 3:9**

Each tree is recognized **by its own fruit.** **Luke 6:44**

Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people **who will produce its fruit.** **Matthew 21:43**



**The Kingdom of God is not the church and
the church is not the Kingdom of God**

**You can be part of a church but NOT part
of the Kingdom. If you are part of the
Kingdom you ARE a part of the church**

**The church disconnected from the Kingdom
is what western Christianity looks like**

**The church is the gathering of the people of God
who live under the Kingdom rule of Jesus**

**The church is what the practical application
of the Kingdom rule is meant to look like**

“First come **share our life, then you will
understand our doctrine” **Origen, 220 AD****

Matthew 13

Matthew 13 gives us a glimpse of what the Kingdom looks like, behaves like and the consequences of forgetting the first two

Matthew 13

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” **vs 10**

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the **secrets of the kingdom of heaven** has been given to you, but not to them.” **vs 11**

When anyone hears the **message about the kingdom** and does not understand it, the evil one comes and **snatches away what was sown in their heart**. This is the seed sown along the path. **vs 19**

Matthew 13

Weeds

Mustard Seed

Yeast

Hidden Treasure

Pearl

Net

Matthew 13

Mustard Seed and Yeast (2-3)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...The kingdom of heaven is like yeast”

“yet when it **grows, it worked all through the dough”**

Whatever the Kingdom is, according to the King, **there is growth. In both size (level of behaviour, external) and depth (level of obedience, internal)**

Matthew 13

Hidden Treasure and Pearl (4-5)

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls

One person stumbles upon it, the other is actively seeking it

In both instances the finder, seeker believes that what they have found is worth everything

Matthew 13

Weeds and Fish (1, 6)

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, the kingdom of heaven is like a net

In one case the enemy was involved planting among the good the evil, in the other the fish were bad because of their nature

In one case the seed was hidden, recognizable only by the fruit and the other is obvious by their condition

Matthew 13

Weeds and Fish

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. vs 41



Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. vs 48

Darnel-Lolium temulentum

This is how it will be at the end of the age.

Matthew 13

Weeds

Mustard Seed

Yeast

Hidden Treasure

Pearl

Net

Growth/
Depth

Value
Worth/

Accountable/Judgement



Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.” **Matthew 19:23**

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first. **vs 29-30**