



Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
 People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

1-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
 PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

Journey to the Kingdom

Conversion? What does that mean? Are you on the right track?

by James McBride

Every year many thousands around the world are 'born again'. (It could be you.) They are persuaded that - for whatever reason - they should commit themselves to Jesus Christ. It's the beginning of a journey that may take years before reaching the final destination, the Kingdom of God.

Anyone who surveys the Christian scene, however, must at times be confused. Presented is a whole supermarket of choice - spiritual products packaged to entice you into a particular path to the Kingdom. Can all be 'the way'?

Everyone On Board

Follow this analogy. Having wandered around town for X years you are drawn towards being a Christian. You know that it's possible only through Jesus Christ. He is, in our analogy, the 'Station'. So along with many others you go there and you purchase a ticket - 'single fare only' - for The Kingdom of God. *"That's Platform 6 or Platform 7, sir"* says the ticket clerk.

You pass the barrier and head for the adjacent

Platforms 6 & 7 where each has a train ready to depart. The destination board informs you that each is destined for *The Kingdom of God*, and lists the stations at which each will call.

On the platform

between the two trains, strangely, is a stand labeled *Direction Finder* containing a Bible. You are perhaps surprised that the train on Platform 6 is swarming with passengers while that on 7 is almost deserted. You also note that very few on Platform 6 are bothering to check the *Direction Finder*. Virtually none of these changes to Platform 7.

The Wrong Train?

While you are studying the *Direction Finder* another passenger joins you. He tells you that he has heard one of the *Destination Boards* is a con - that one of the trains is definitely not going to *The Kingdom of God*. But which? Only a close study of the *Direction Finder* will identify.

Clearly, the analogy isn't watertight. Although the two trains will, on leaving, diverge - one speeding to *The Kingdom*, the other en route to a quite different destination - yet it's always an option to transfer from one to the other. But the greater the divergence the more difficult that option becomes.

Doing the Journey

On each passenger seat on both trains, however, is a copy of the *Direction Finder*. Whichever train you choose you can study its pages for guidance. Be sure to choose well.

Don't assume,

Platform 6:

Destination: *Kingdom of God (Traditional Route)*

Stopping at:

Sunday worship

Christmas

Easter

Saints Days

Immortal Soul

Heaven, at point of death

Fiery Hell, at point of death

Trinity

Platform 7:

Destination: *Kingdom of God (Direct Route)*

Stopping at:

7th Day Sabbath

7 Bible Holy Days

Conditional immortality

Resurrection at Christ's coming

Reign with Christ on Earth

God - Father and Son

Journey to the Kingdom

though, that the 'right' train is Pullman Class or that the journey will be smooth all the way. En route you will encounter 'officials' who misinform and who will encourage you to re-route, to change trains.

In that *Direction Finder*, the Stationmaster (Jesus) warns that you will meet opposition. Indeed some passengers. he says, may be taken hostage and be killed. (Yet they will, strangely, arrive safe and well at The Kingdom destination!)

Transformed

Visiting the right stations, however, isn't everything - although, just as in any journey new to you, passing through them indicates you are headed for the right destination.

But no passenger on this train arrives 'just as he was' on first boarding. Although the occasional squabble

breaks out - indeed some will cosily segregate themselves into 'exclusive' carriages! - they begin to form a bond with one another. By continuing to study the *Finder* passengers are influenced to put away their previous behaviour pattern and to be transformed in character.

For His own reasons the Father is, for now, offering a 'ticket' to The Kingdom to a selection of mankind. Some will throw it in the waste bin. Some will join the crowd and jump aboard without first determining which is the hoax. Others board the right train but disembark before journey's end because the journey is tiring and takes too long or because it is uncomfortable or because they don't like or because they dispute with their fellow-passengers.

Don't be deceived as to your destination.

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Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
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www.cgom.org

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