

## October 5 Questions

- 1) From the beginning of His preaching ministry, Jesus challenged the Jew's assumptions about God's kingdom. He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). This was troubling because the call to repent seemed out of place. The Jews were the descendants of Abraham; surely their inclusion in the kingdom was \_\_\_\_\_. Why did they need to repent? Jesus explained to them, as he did to Nicodemus, that the kingdom is first and foremost a \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom in which the Messiah rules in the hearts of those who believe Him and accept Him as Lord. Only those who were born of the \_\_\_\_\_, as Ezekiel prophesied, would \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom and be a part of its establishment on earth in the last days (Ezek 11:17–20). The earthly kingdom was coming, and it would indeed be a worldwide kingdom of peace, but it was "at hand" in the sense that the Messiah had come to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the sins of many (Isa 53:3–6). This must be done first, for Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would pour "out his soul to \_\_\_\_\_" before Jerusalem would sing for joy over her children (Isa 53:12; 54:1).