

**Today's Sermons**

Morning: Dedicated To Godly Living  
 Evening: God Hates...

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	21
Sunday AM Worship	27
Sunday PM Worship	27
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$1555



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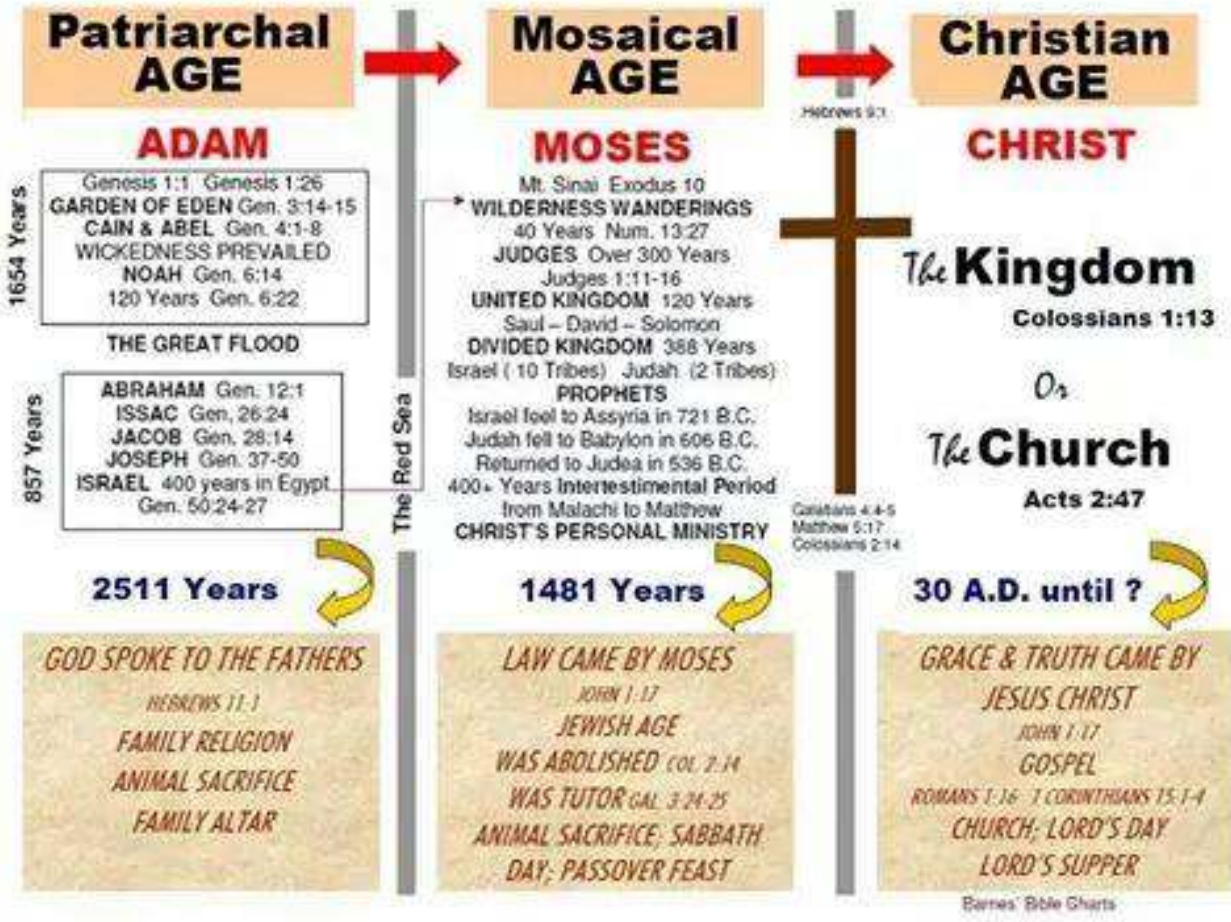
**“BOLD AS A LION”**  
 Dave Miller

**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship:...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
  
Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm  
  
Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 “Back to the Bible”  
 AM 580 WSKK  
 93.5 FM

Most allusions to the persecution and suffering for Christ in the Bible have little meaning to Christians today. We quote with gusto such inspired words as “all who live godly in Christ Jesus wilt suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12), but then remain perplexed as to why we’re not really experiencing any distress. We generally assume that times were more difficult then than now, and thus feel comfortable in our complacency. However, there is much more in the Bible to suggest that if we were doing more of what was done then, we would receive comparable opposition. Two basic qualities possessed by the righteous throughout Biblical history consistently evoked opposition and persecution from the unrighteous: courage and confrontation Notice what the Bible has to say regarding these matters.

**We Extend A  
 Warm &  
 Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

Living godly in this world by definition involves interaction with people. This interpersonal contact must often entail firm confrontation - something that does not come easy for most people. We usually bow to our fears and personal insecurities while reassuring ourselves that “it’s not my business”, or “they may get the wrong idea  
*Continued Inside*



and think I'm being unkind". But we must realize that there are those who need to be brought "to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:26). This can only be done when we instruct and correct them (2 Timothy 2:25), in short, confront them in their error. It is up to the righteous to "turn him back" (James 5:19), and to save a soul from death. Solomon said. "Open rebuke is better than secret love" (Proverbs 27:5). In other words, when a person strays from the appointed pathway, those who love will confront directly. Indeed, to fail to do so brings one's love into serious question.

Coupled with confrontation is the closely connected quality of courage. Repeatedly, God's people are called upon to exhibit courage in the face of opposition (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:8,9; Psalm 27:14). Paul was thankful for the Christians who became more courageous and bold in speaking the truth because of his imprisonment (Philippians 1:14). When Paul and Barnabas presented the truth in Pisidian Antioch and were opposed by persons who contradicted and spoke abusively against them, Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly (Acts 13:46).

It takes real courage to confront - but it must be done if we love God and our fellowman. The unrighteous may rave and rant when confronted in their sin. They may panic. "The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1).



## CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Roger Rush

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). It is impossible to separate Christ from his church. Without Christ the church would not be, and without the church Christ's mission would have been incomplete. It must be clearly understood that one cannot accept Christ and reject his church or accept the church and reject Jesus. The two are inseparable.

His relationship to the church is set forth clearly in scripture. The purpose of his coming was to build the church (Matthew 16:18). His love for the church moved him to give himself for her (Acts 20:28). And, he is her head today (Colossians 1: 18).

What is the church? It is not a building, a social club, or a political action committee. It is God's spiritual family (1 Timothy 3:15). In relationship to it's government, it is called a kingdom. In regard to its organization, it is called a body. In respect to its relationship to the world, it is called the church. The church consists of people who have been saved by the blood of Christ. The saved are added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47).

How does one become a member of God's spiritual family? Citizenship in the kingdom comes through the new birth (John 3:3,5,7). Membership in the body comes by baptism into it (I Corinthians 12:13). One is added to the church by the Lord upon the basis of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism (Acts 2:37-47).

Is it possible to accept Jesus, but reject the church? No! Can one be saved outside the church? No! All of the saved are in Christ's church today (Acts 2:47; 4:12). Read God's word, believe it, and obey it. The Lord will add you to his church and you'll be a Christian, nothing more, nothing less (Acts 11:26). Nothing is more important.

We do not know what particular trials tomorrow will bring, but if we love the Lord we can be certain of victory over them all.

Are we faithful? If we had a refrigerator that would quit for a day, now and then, would we regard it as dependable? Yet there are Christians who regard themselves as faithful, who miss a service for reasons that wouldn't keep them from work or social functions. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful... until death, and I will give you a crown..." (Rev. 2:10).

Since man was made to love and to be loved, Jesus did not issue an arbitrary command foreign to the nature of man when he said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt 19:19). In other words, the capacity to love others is intimately tied up with the experience of being on reasonably good terms with oneself.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class.
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup> – Preach & Eat & 1:30 Song Service & Worship @ Eula's @ 3:00 pm.
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell