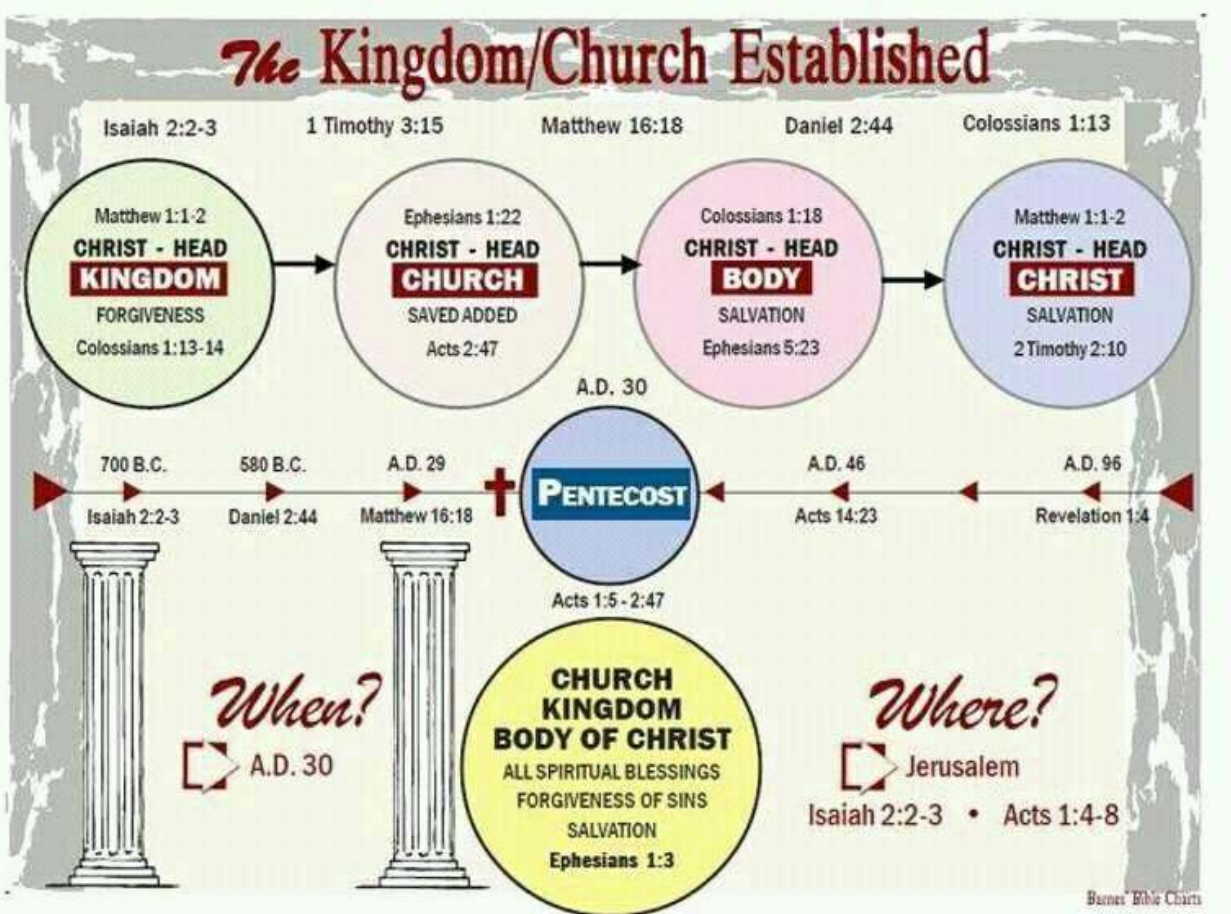


Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Greatest Bridge
 Evening: The Parable of the Soils

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	46
Sunday AM Worship	63
Sunday PM Worship	34
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1770



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:.... 10:00am
 AM Worship:..11:00am
 PM Worship:....6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

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

TRUE WORSHIP
 Wade Webster

The greatest conversation ever recorded on the subject of worship took place in Samaria, and not in Jerusalem. It took place on the side of a well, and not in the temple or a synagogue. It took place with a worldly woman, and not with a holy man. Truly, *"There is no respect of persons with God"* (Romans 2:11). Through the conversation that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman, we learn the meaning of true worship.

True Worship Is That Which God Desires
"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23). While God doesn't need anything (Psalm 50:10), He does want something. He wants man to worship Him (Psalm 45:1; Proverbs 15:8; Luke 22:15). What a great privilege it is for us to be able to give God what He desires.

True Worship Is That Which God Deserves
"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father . . . But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:21,23). Please note the repeated use of the designation "Father." As you know, fathers are deserving of

Continued Inside

honor (Exodus 20:12). As the "*one God and Father of all*" (Ephesians 4:6), there is surely honor due Him (1 Chronicles 16:29). It is from this standpoint that God condemned the worship of many in Malachi's day. We read, "*A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master; if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you*" (Malachi 1:6).

True Worship Is That Which God **Demands**

"*God is a Spirit; and they that worship him **must** worship him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). Please notice the little word "must." As you know, "must" is used to refer to that which is required. Worship is a requirement. It is a part of man's duty to fear God and keep His commandments. In the long ago, Solomon wrote, "*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

True Worship Is That Which God **Defines**

"*God is a Spirit; and they that worship him **must** worship him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). To define something is to outline it clearly. It is to mark the limits or boundaries of it. Jesus made clear that worship must consist of the right attitude ("in spirit") and the right action ("in truth") in order to be acceptable. One side without the other is insufficient, no matter which one is present.

All that the Samaritan woman ever needed to know about worship, she learned on the side of a well. Thanks to the inspired record of John, we can say the same.

DON'T DIE BEING DEAD

Cade Somers

Physical death occurs when the spirit separates from the body (James 2:26). The body returns to the earth (Ecclesiastes 12:7); the spirit relocates to the Hadean realm (Luke 16:23; Acts 2:27,31). No matter if the brain or some organ fails before the rest of the body, death takes place when the spirit sheds its lifeless corpse. It is impossible to die physically, being already physically dead; it is, however, very common for people to die physically, being already *spiritually* dead.

If we die never having obeyed the gospel, we will have no more opportunity to surrender ourselves to Christ (Luke 16:24-26; cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9). The Catechism of the Catholic Church reveals that Catholics believe it to be worthwhile to offer prayers, indulgences and almsgivings on behalf of the dead (Art. 12; Pt. III) – that somehow the dead may be eternally benefited by them. No Scripture supports this belief. Instead, Inspiration says, "*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord*" (Revelation 14:13). The subjects of this blessing are those whose bodies are being laid to rest. The time antecedent to death was

spent "in the Lord," a phrase indicative of a special closeness to Christ, a spiritual fellowship having Christ's favor (John 15:4-7; Philippians 1:14; cf. Galatians 3:27). Thus, one who dies "in the Lord" is one who dies having obeyed Him to the point of death (Colossians 1:21-23; Revelation 2:10).

We should not give time enough opportunity to take our bodies before our souls are offered to God. Paul said, "*She who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives*" (1 Timothy 5:6, NKJV). Clearly, he was referring to spiritual deadness in physical liveliness. The Bible is not silent about this tragic dilemma (Proverbs 21:16; Ezekiel 37:1; John 6:53). Perhaps Solomon stated it with greatest clarity, writing, "*For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. As well their love, as their hatred and their envy, is perished long ago; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun*" (Ecclesiastes 9:5,6). Many are dead, yet alive, but Christ is able to make alive those "*dead in trespasses and sins*" (Ephesians 2:1; cf. Colossians 2:13).

What's important is that we do not plan for a deathbed obedience, for that kind of passiveness will not pass for proper preparation. Obey the Word of God and be made alive today (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12). Don't die being dead.

“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Colossians 2:10-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 29 – Song Service
- Aug 3 – Family Game Night – from 6:00 pm until...
- Aug 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Aug 9-11 – Tent Meeting in Lansing
- Aug 12 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell