

Golden Gate Church of Christ

**Welcomes guests, visitors,
friends, relatives and
members to the
3rd Annual Gospel meeting
Dec. 7-9, 2012**

The overall theme:

**THE CHURCH THROUGH
THE AGES**

The Church Today

Introduction:

“The Church Today” is certainly a challenging subject and one that should prove beneficial.

There are several routes we could have taken in researching and assimilating the material for this discussion.

To cover and answer a wide topic like this is to post two questions:

1) Can we find the first century church today?

2) What is the state of the Lord's church today?

Discussion: **The Church Today**

***Can we find the
first century church today?***

**For almost two thousand years
the church that the Lord Jesus
Christ established has existed on
this earth.**

Not only has the church survived all other institutions and all other kingdoms, but the message of truth to which it bears witness is still alive and proclaimed today in rural villages and modern metropolises.

What has kept the church alive despite the imperfections of its members and the attacks from outsiders?

Everything that is said in Scripture about the church or kingdom of Christ *before* that Pentecost always points to the future; but, every time one reads about the church *after* that day it is always spoken of as being in existence.

...to point out that the church was established on the first day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection, that it could not have been established before Jesus died, and that it has continued to exist since its beginning....

Continuing from Pentecost until the present age, the church will continue until the end of time.

It will stand forever!

(Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28)

Even during the Dark Ages the apostolic church did not become extinct.

Although the Biblical record closes near the end of the first century with the writing of the Book of Revelation, in this book of New Testament prophecy God foretold that the true church would go "into the wilderness."

(Revelation 12:14)

God predicted that an apostate church would grow out of the faithful church, *but not that the church would cease to exist.*

(Acts 20:29-30;

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10;

1 Timothy 4:1-3)

Discussion: The Church Today

*What is the state of the
Lord's church today?*

**How would we
assess the situation
of the Lord's
church today?**

**We will identify four
desirable and four
undesirable current
conditions.**

Desirable Conditions

More Active

Desirable Conditions

Patience

&

Steadfastness

Desirable Conditions

*Doctrinal
Soundness*

Desirable Conditions

Reputation

Undesirable Conditions

Not

Aggressive

Undesirable Conditions

Not

Committed

Undesirable Conditions

*Too Much
Tolerance
Toward Evil &
Error*

Undesirable Conditions

Not

Righteous

Recommendations

*Add a measure of fervent
zeal and become truly
aggressive in our fight
against the world*

Recommendations

*We need to make sure
that what we possess
is patience, not
indifference*

Recommendations

*Abhor the
unrighteousness and
take the necessary
disciplinary action to
prevent its spread*

Recommendations

*More concerned
over its true
character*

**God's Word will forever
be the mirror in which
we can clearly see the
current state of the
Lord's church today.**

Conclusion

“The Church Today” is in a time of progress in some areas and in a time of trial in others.

The present theme attempts to sharpen the focus on what the main "issues, problems, and challenges" are, present in depth evaluations of factors which are involved in such areas of concern, and apply the truth of the gospel in a specific way to these areas so as to encourage the brotherhood to press on in the spread of the gospel and the defense of the faith.

Gospel Invitation

We urge all men/women to obey the gospel of Christ and be added by the Lord to the church which was established almost two thousand years ago.

The church has a divine message to proclaim which meets every need of man's soul.