

Golden Gate Church of Christ

Welcomes guests, visitors, friends,
relatives, and members to our

3rd Annual Gospel Meeting

THE CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES

December 7-9, 2012

Featured Speakers:

John Quiniones, James Quitoriano, & Clay Hooper

The Church Yesterday

- The Church
 - was prophesied by the prophets
 - will last forever
 - was promised by Jesus
 - was established
 - in about 30-33 AD on the day of Pentecost
 - in Jerusalem
 - (founded) by Christ – Jesus is the Head of the Church
 - was confirmed by the Apostles

The Church Yesterday

- The Church
 - has a variety of names as described
 - by Jesus, by the Apostles, & throughout the Scriptures
 - has specific requirements for membership
 - members have been called by a variety of names
 - has specific works to be done
 - sharing the Gospel
 - benevolence
 - edification

The Church Yesterday

- The Church
 - has a specific organizational structure
 - follows the New Testament as it's doctrine, containing:
 - facts to believe
 - commands to obey
 - promises to enjoy
 - calls for non-denominational unity
 - one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one destination

The Church Yesterday

- The Church
 - follows specific guidelines for Worship
 - is devoted to the Word & example of Christ
 - is universal – open to all people
 - is governed from heaven
- There are many other organizations that claim to be “the Church” – yet all established by men

The Church Today

- Can we find the first century Church today?
- What is the state of the Lord's Church today?
- The Church
 - has existed for nearly 2,000 years
 - message has never changed
 - what was said in the Scriptures about the Kingdom **before** Pentecost looked forward to establishing the Church
 - what was said in the Scriptures about the Church **after** Pentecost realizes the Kingdom is in existence
 - will last forever

The Church Today

- Discussed 4 desirable conditions
 - becoming more active
 - being more patient and steadfast
 - maintaining doctrinal soundness
 - developing a good reputation
- Discussed 4 undesirable conditions
 - not being aggressive about our faith
 - lack of commitment
 - tolerance with evil / error
 - lack of righteousness

The Church Today

- Offered 4 recommendations
 - add a measure of fervent zeal
 - possess patience rather than indifference
 - abhor unrighteousness
 - develop more concern for the Church's true character / mission

The Church Tomorrow

- Clarification:

The Church Is Not The Building!



The Church Tomorrow

Buildings Don't Last: Ruins of Ephesus



The Church Tomorrow

The word “Church”
is from the Greek word “Ekklesia”
meaning:
“the called out”, “the gathered”,
or “the assembled”

The Church Tomorrow

The Church Is The People!



The Church Tomorrow

- To foresee the future of the Church, we have only one reliable human witness:

“John” – most likely the Apostle John

Revelation, Chapter 1 – Introduction

John sets the stage of his vision / prophesy
and authenticates the speaker = Jesus

The Church Tomorrow



The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.</p> <p>3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.</p> <p>6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.</p> <p>[[[Nicolaitanism is perhaps similar to, or a part of, Gnosticism where the fundamental principle is "Eat, Drink, and be Merry for tomorrow we will die." Hedonistic. Paganism. Idolatry.]]]</p>	<p>4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.</p>	<p>5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.</p>

Promised Reward:

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life**, which is in the paradise of God.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Ephesus**:
 - Do we remember the first time we fell in love?
 - Do we recall that feeling of always wanting to be near the object of our love, to simply be in the presence of that person?
 - In what ways might we have lost our first love for Jesus? Or,
 - How have we kept that first love for Jesus alive?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>9 I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.</p>	<p>[[[Nothing Listed]]]</p>	<p>10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death,</p>

Promised Reward:

10 ... and I will **give you the crown of life.**

11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.**

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Smyrna**:
 - How could the Church be both rich and poor?
 - Are there similarities between the Smyrna Church and ours?
 - Is it easier to live out our faith when we are rich or when we are poor?
 - In what ways are we spiritually rich?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Pergamum (Rev 2:12-17)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>13 I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where Satan lives.</p>	<p>14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.</p> <p>15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.</p> <p>[[[Idolatry. Sexual Immorality. Gnosticism.]]]</p>	<p>16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.</p>

Promised Reward:

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it,** known only to him who receives it.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Pergamum**:
 - What pressures were the Christians in Pergamum facing that we also face today?
 - What are some of the *anti*-Christian influences in our life and how do we overcome them?
 - Are we running from or embracing the cultures within our community?
 - Are we aware of our surroundings and providing ministry that's relevant to the needs of the community?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>19 I know your <u>deeds</u>, your <u>love and faith</u>, your <u>service and perseverance</u>, and that you are now <u>doing more</u> than you did at first.</p>	<p>20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You <u>tolerate</u> that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into <u>sexual immorality</u> and the eating of food sacrificed to <u>idols</u>.</p> <p>[[[Wrongful Tolerance. Sexual Immorality. Idolatry.]]]</p>	<p>22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, <u>unless they repent</u> of her ways.</p> <p>24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):</p> <p>25 Only <u>hold on</u> to what you have until I come.</p>

Promised Reward:

- 26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations --
- 27 He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery -- just as I have received authority from my Father.
- 28 I will also give him the morning star.
- 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Thyatira**:
 - Do any of these qualities in John's letter apply to us: love and faith, service and perseverance?
 - Who or what has played the role of “Jezebel” (tempter or temptress) in our life?
 - How does God free us from that influence?
 - What do we wrongfully tolerate?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your <u>deeds</u>; you have a <u>reputation of being alive</u>,</p>	<p>1 ... but you are <u>dead</u>. 2 ... for I have <u>not found your deeds complete</u> in the sight of my God.</p>	<p>3 <u>Remember</u>, therefore, what you have received and heard; <u>obey</u> it, and <u>repent</u>.</p>

Promised Reward:

- 4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.
- 5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Sardis**:
 - Is our Church going through the motions with its worship and activities?
 - Are we willing to let things die that need to die, and bring to life what will effectively lead others to Christ?
 - Do we spend more time reminiscing on past accomplishments than on dreaming and implementing new ways to reach out to our community?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.</p> <p>10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.</p>	<p>[[[Nothing Listed]]]</p>	<p>11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.</p>

Promised Reward:

- 12** **Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.**
- 13** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Philadelphia**:
 - What is the most down-and-out group in our community? What are we doing to reach them?
 - Are we equipping the people in our Church to "go where no man has gone before" in ministry to our community?
 - What kind of evaluation process do we have that examines existing ministries and suggests new forms of outreach?

The Church Tomorrow

The Church of The Laodiceans (Rev 3:14-22)

What Is Going FOR Them?	What Is Going AGAINST Them?	What Are They Told To DO?
<p>15 I know your <u>deeds</u>,</p>	<p>15 ... that you are <u>neither cold nor hot</u>. I wish you were either one or the other!</p> <p>16 So, because you are <u>lukewarm</u>--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.</p> <p>17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are <u>wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked</u>.</p>	<p>18 I counsel you to <u>buy from me</u> gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can <u>cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes</u>, so you can see.</p> <p>19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So <u>be earnest</u>, and <u>repent</u>.</p>

Promised Reward:

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Church Tomorrow

- Reflection Questions From **Laodicea**:
 - If Jesus took our spiritual temperature, what would it be?
 - Are we challenging ourselves and our congregation to go beyond mediocrity?
 - Are we speaking the truth in love on a regular basis?
 - Are we challenged by our own personal disciplines to ensure mediocrity doesn't quench our zeal for Christ?

The Church

- The CHURCH YESTERDAY was established by Jesus Christ and will last forever
- The CHURCH TODAY is still visible, viable, and relevant to our daily lives
- The CHURCH TOMORROW calls us to remember our first love, remain faithful to the end, repent of wrongdoing, obey the truth, endure the trials, & be earnest in our faith