

# WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I ATTEND?

By Brother Mike Sutherland

We will open our study today with *Matthew 16:18*:

<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. *Matthew 16:18*

The words church or churches occur a total of 117 times in our King James Bibles. The Lord Jesus Christ formed the church when he was on the face of this earth. The very first time (also the second time) that the word church is used in our Bibles it is used by the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Acts does not say that the church was formed on Pentecost Day. The book of Acts says the church was ADDED to on Pentecost Day. In the book of Acts, God the Holy Ghost considered the church to be an established fact. That is why we say that the Lord Jesus Christ formed the church and that He empowered it with the Holy Ghost on Pentecost Day. On Pentecost Day, the Holy Ghost became the administrator and representative of the Lord's churches. The Holy Ghost, and only the Holy Ghost, is the VICAR of Christ.

God considers church attendance so important that he commanded us in *Hebrews 10:24-25*:

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: <sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Most people fail to notice that this commandment is mentioned in the context of the precious blood of Jesus and a fearful looking for judgment and fiery indignation. *Hebrews 10:29* says:

<sup>29</sup> Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? *Hebrews 10:29*

Therefore, we should take church attendance very seriously. Failure to attend church is a sin. Christ gave himself for the church and shed his blood for the church. You neglect church at your own peril. You could starve to death spiritually. **THE QUESTION IS: WHICH CHURCH??**

There is a never ending category 5 hurricane blowing in most churches today because churches in America are being tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine. Churches are being built upon the shifting sands of self esteem, psychology, and other occultic (Satanic) New Age doctrines and practices. Self esteem is not the solution: It is the problem. Self esteem is self worship. In our churches today, there is no firm foundation because the chief cornerstone is missing. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Rock upon which every New Testament church must be built. The church is a

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living organism birthed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The church is the Bride of Christ made up of local churches and saved members of those churches. There is no earthly universal church. *Ephesians 5:25-27* says:

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. *Ephesians 5:25-27*

*Acts 20:27-29* says:

<sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. *Acts 20:27-29*

A huge majority of churches in America are a part of the Bride of Satan, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. They are nothing more than wild packs of ravening wolves. There has never been a day when the roaring lion and his ravening wolves has mounted a more sustained attack against the church of the living God. Every doctrine of the Bible is held up for mockery and shame by those who claim they have been called to preach it. Our churches are full of spineless preachers and pastors that will not declare the whole counsel of God. They are Satan's ministers and the promoters of unfruitful works of darkness. Preacher, God has not called you to preach love and to compromise with every doctrine of devils that comes along. The roaring lion and his ravening wolves have gone on a feeding frenzy and have gorged themselves on the unprotected sheep. Where are you pastor? Are you feeding and protecting the sheep that God has placed under your care? What about you deacon, Sunday School teacher, mother and dad? What is your charge from God? What about you Christian? Where should you go to get fed? What church do you need to be a part of?

A very serious problem that we have in our Independent Baptist churches today is that we have pews that are full of professing Christians with a head full of doctrine and a heart full of hell. They have the truth without the spirit. In the church of the Living God, salvation is not one-two-three pray after me. Any genuine experience of salvation must be brought about by the conviction of the Holy Ghost, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance toward God, and a public confession of faith. If any of these were absent when you made your profession, you did not get saved. Repentance is that change of life that is the work of the Holy Ghost. If there has been no change in your life, the Holy Ghost is not working in you. Instead, that Wicked One is working in you. In other words, you have been deceived and you are still a hell bound child of the Devil. Repent and turn to God. God does not play games. No repentance no salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said in *Luke 13:3*: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish". Most churches in America are full of hell bound church members who have not repented of their sins. At the baptism of the Lord Jesus

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Christ JOHN THE BAPTIST rebuked the religious vipers of his day saying: “who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”. Faith is the door to salvation and the key that unlocks the door is repentance.

You cannot get saved anytime you want to. Salvation is never on your time. Salvation is on God’s time. Also, the God of the Bible is an eternal Saviour. He is not here today and gone tomorrow. That does not mean that you can live like hell before God and get away with it. There will come a day of reckoning and there is a sin unto death. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

In the church of the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to salvation. In *John 14:6* the Lord Jesus Christ said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”. You cannot earn it by works. If you have to do anything to earn or to keep it, then you are working for it. *Ephesians 2:8-9* says:

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Salvation is not in baptism. Salvation is not in any church. Salvation is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ only. I am sick of American political leaders and so-called American pastors and preachers standing before us and saying that the God of Islam is the God of the Bible. Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth. The God of Islam is the Devil. Islam is the highway to hell and its prophet Mohammed was a devil possessed, child molesting, Christian and Jew hating murderer. If we could hold anyone up to be a perfect type of the Antichrist it would be Mohammed. Repent America! Islam is the roaring lion that the Satan has sent to devour America. America’s only protection is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the church of the Living God, there is no salvation without the shedding of blood of Jesus. Without the shedding of His blood there is no remission. Without the shedding of His blood there is no atonement. Without the atonement there is nothing but an eternity in hell! There are three requirements for the sacrifice: (1) the sacrifice had to die, (2) the sacrifice had to shed its blood, and (3) the blood had to be sprinkled upon the mercy seat. If either of these three is missing, the sacrifice is of none effect. The Lord Jesus Christ is that perfect, sinless sacrifice. Though the word ‘atonement’ is only used one time in the New Testament, there are at least 175 references to the atonement in the New Testament. Without the shedding of blood there is no atonement, no justification, no propitiation, no redemption, no cleansing, no reconciliation, no sanctification, and no victory. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

The professing church today is an unholy thing that has trodden under foot the Son of God and hath counted the blood of His covenant an unholy thing. The professing church today is the Devil’s reincarnation of Ichabod. This blood thirsty Mother of Harlots awaits her coronation by the Antichrist as the Queen (bride) of Satan. The only blood that the whore of Satan wants today is the blood of Bible believing Christians. We will not have the God-man Jesus reign over us with his bloody religion. Give us Cain of the unbloody sacrifice and the leavened wine of false doctrine. Jude said in *Jude 17-19* :

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<sup>17</sup> But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>18</sup> How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. <sup>19</sup> These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. *Jude 17-19*

These folks in *Jude 17-19* are unsaved because they have not the Spirit. They have never been saved. *Romans 8:9* says: “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”.

In the church of the Living God, Hell fire and damnation is preached hot and heaven is preached glorious. As distasteful as the word ‘hell’ is, it occurs 54 times in our King James Bibles. Hell is an eternally burning place. Lost church members die and go to hell and then are cast into the lake of fire. Lost church members jump out of the frying pan into the fire. What about you? Where are you going? Are you going into Satan’s ovens where you will be cooked forever and never get done? Please, don’t die in your sin and go to hell only to be cast into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is an eternally burning place.

In the church of the living God, there is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. They are coequal, coeternal, and coexistent. There has never been a time when either of the three did not exist. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. That means that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. That is why his full title is LORD Jesus Christ.

In an English speaking church of the Living God, you will have a King James Bible and only a King James Bible. If you do not have a King James Bible, you are handling the Word of God deceitfully and have perverted the words of the Living God. Anything but the King James Bible is apostasy. The refrain of the apostates in our day is: “Oh that terrible book, the King James Bible! We will not have that book reign over us!”. If you will not have the King James Bible, you will not have the real power of God in your church. If you have any questions concerning that issue, please feel free to contact us.

The church of the Living God is to be separated from false doctrine and sinful, worldly living. Christians are to live holy lives. **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THIS.** Live in holiness and live in peace, power, and victory. Live in sin and worldliness and live in fear, weakness, and defeat. Live in holiness and you will have what the power of God can do. Live in sin and worldliness and you will have what the power of your flesh can do and that is to rebel against God. We must worship God in spirit and truth. The problem in this age is that we have separated spirit from truth and have sought to worship God apart from the unchanging Word of God which is His truth.

Music that gets to your feet and hips before it touches your heart is not of God. Music that gets your flesh to moving is not going to get God to moving. Most of today’s so-called Christian music is simply the Devil’s fodder fed to the ravening flesh. According to *Ephesians 5:19* and *Colossians 3:16*, we are to worship God with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. And I am not talking about the spiritualism of this age. There is a spirit of this age, but it is the spirit of Antichrist that denies the Lord Jesus Christ and His word. Ungodly Christian music is an open door to the church for Satan.

In the church of the Living God, SIN is preached against; abortion is murder; sex outside of marriage is adultery and/or fornication; pornography is wicked, sexual perversion; drugs and alcohol are

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drunkenness; wicked, worldly music is banned from the church; same sex relationships are an abomination before God; homosexuals and lesbians are sodomites; the movie theaters are dens of iniquity; the lottery and gambling is robbing God; television is the sewer; and the internet is the cesspool; etc. You say: “Well brother is there anything that you are not against?” And I say: “Yes, I am not against holy living.” What I am saying is that you are a thief and a robber if you let your sin and unholy living rob the church of what the power of the living God can do. God will not use a dirty church.

Three times the Bible says we are to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (*1 Chronicles 16:29, Psalm 29:2, and Psalm 96:9*). Separation is all about holiness. Contrary to the spirit of *2 Chronicles 20:21* which says we are to praise the beauty of holiness most of the professing church today mocks the beauty of holiness. The most harsh comments do not come from the unsaved unless they are church members. The most harsh comments and attitudes come from unholy and apostate churches; most of whose members are not saved. And most of that comes from unholy and haughty women that are in rebellion against God. If you profess to be a Christian and you mock a woman in a long dress, you have an unholy attitude that is displeasing to God. Christians ought to dress right whether you like it or not. God requires it! Holiness is beautiful before God, but is a reproach unto the modern, Laodicean church of today. If you are unholy, you cannot worship God. Holiness does not fit into the ungodly purpose and numbers driven strategy of today. Holiness is in conflict with the self esteem doctrine and psychology of today’s apostate church. Preachers love to preach on the love of God but avoid the holiness of God like the plague. Preaching on the holiness of God requires people to deal with their sin. God forbid that we should preach on sin because that would run away some church members: maybe even some deacons. So be it! If you want the power of God on a church, discipline church members who will not forsake their sin.

The church of the Living God will also support the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. If you have ought in your heart against the Jewish people then you have ought against God. Therefore, your heart is not right before God. *Romans 11:1-2* says in part: “<sup>1</sup> I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew”. We had better beware of any political or religious devil that hates the Jews and Israel. His political decisions will bring judgment upon America. Any political deal or decision that divides the land of Israel is a direct slap in the face of God. *Joel 3:2* says:

<sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. *Joel 3:2*

If you are looking for a church and visit a church that will not support the Jew and Israel, or demeans the Jew and the nation of Israel, run from that church because it is infected with a spiritual plague. If you are in a church that either does not support Israel and the Jew, or demeans Israel and the Jew, get out of it as fast as you can because if you do not, you are committing spiritual suicide. If you are in a church that is doctrinally compromised, you need to get out of it. You cannot compromise with the Devil and expect to worship and please God and have the power of God in your life. Will your

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unholy living and your unholy church lead some of your loved ones to hell? The church that you attend is one of the most important spiritual decisions you will ever make. Most churches today are unholy to the point of being profane. The LORD said this in *Ezekiel 22:25-26*:

<sup>25</sup> *There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.* <sup>26</sup> *Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.* *Ezekiel 22:25–26*

As it was amongst the Jews of Ezekiel's day, so it is among unholy and profane professing Christians of today. Here is what Paul had to say about the teachers and preachers of our day in 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

<sup>3</sup> *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;* <sup>4</sup> *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* *2 Timothy 4:3–4*

Most churches today refuse to teach sound doctrine because to do so would mean that they would have to earnestly contend for the faith against Satan and his minions. Most churches today earnestly contend against true Bible believing faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Just so there will be no confusion, a saint is anyone who has received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. You do not have to be canonized by some corrupt, false religious system to be a saint. Continuing on, a compromised church is an instrument in the hands of Satan. America's compromised churches have become safe havens and promoters for false teachers and false prophets. What follows in *Matthew 7:15-16*, *Matthew 24:9-12*, *Matthew 24:24*, *Luke 6:26*, *2 Corinthians 11:13–15*, *2 Timothy 3:13*, *2 Timothy 4:3-4*, *2 Peter 2:1-3*, and *1 John 4:1-3* are some of God's warnings to us concerning false teachers and false prophets:

<sup>15</sup> *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.* <sup>16</sup> *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?* *Matthew 7:15–16*

<sup>9</sup> *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.* <sup>10</sup> *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.* <sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.* <sup>12</sup> *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* *Matthew 24:9–12*

<sup>24</sup> *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and*

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wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:24*

<sup>26</sup> Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. *Luke 6:26*

<sup>13</sup> For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13–15*

<sup>13</sup> But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. *2 Timothy 3:13*

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:3–4*

<sup>1</sup> But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. <sup>3</sup> And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. *2 Peter 2:1–3*

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: <sup>3</sup> And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. *1 John 4:1–3*

Any church that you would want to be a member of will not tolerate false doctrine, false teachers, false prophets, and heretics. So, how do we discern the false teaching, false teachers, and false prophets amongst us? We educate ourselves in the manner described by the Apostle Paul in *2 Timothy 4:1-2*, *2 Timothy 2:15*, and *Hebrews 5:11-14*:

<sup>1</sup> I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

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*2 Timothy 4:1–2*

<sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*

<sup>11</sup> Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. <sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:11–14*

Once we discern the false doctrine, false teachers, and false prophets among us how do we deal with it? The Holy Ghost gave us some instruction in *Romans 16:16-17*, *Ephesians 5:11*, and *Titus 3:10-11*:

<sup>17</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. <sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. *Romans 16:17–18*

<sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. *Ephesians 5:11*

<sup>10</sup> A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; <sup>11</sup> Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself. *Titus 3:10–11*

**Beware of false prophets, false teachers, apostates, and heretics in the year 2026 and beyond. They have consumed most of the churches in America!!**

A church that is right with God will uplift and exalt the LORD Jesus Christ. In the church of the living God, *Colossians 1:17-18* says the Lord Jesus Christ is before all things and is preeminent. That means that the Holy Ghost directs worship to the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 16:13-14*). The Holy Ghost is not to be worshipped to the exclusion of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is to be the worship and praise leader in unity with God's holy people. Any attempt to worship the Holy Ghost to the exclusion of the Lord Jesus Christ is an attempt to rob the Lord Jesus Christ of His glory. The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to be adored, worthy to be exalted, worthy to be uplifted, worthy to be honored, worthy to be glorified, worthy to be praised, worthy to be worshipped. He is the high and lifted up one; the Holy one of Israel. His is that Name that is above all names. What a lovely name the name of Jesus. He is the high and lifted up One that inhabits the praises of all that love Him. He

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is my peace. He is my love. He is the altogether Lovely One. The Rose of Sharon. The Scepter of Righteousness and thank God He is my Saviour! His name is Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, The Lord of Lord and King of Kings Seraphims shout, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory...<sup>8</sup> And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come...<sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created...<sup>11</sup> And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;<sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Hallelujah! Hallelujah to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world! Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. Hallelujah! Praise His Name! Hallelujah! O God I am so unworthy! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for saving me! In closing:

<sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. <sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. <sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. <sup>4</sup> Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. <sup>5</sup> Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. <sup>6</sup> Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.  
*PSALM 150*