

Matthew 16:18 The Church that Jesus Built

Introduction: In the sermon last Sunday, I tried to show that the rock on which Jesus built His church was Jesus Christ himself. The Greek language tells us that Peter was a smaller rock, but the rock on which the church was built was a Great Foundation Rock.

The sermon today will seek to show that kind of church that Jesus built. There are many different kinds in the world. One church openly calls itself “the church of Satan.” It is important to be able to look into scripture and see what kind Jesus built.

- I. The church that Jesus built was a local church (one that can assemble).
 - A. The very word, church, means “a called out assembly.”
 - B. Some teach that the church is made up of all who are saved; that they are born into the church when they are saved; and that the church is universal invisible.
 - C. But the church that Jesus built was a called out group.
 1. Jesus had a called out group of disciples.
 2. He called out Peter and Andrew, James and John, Matthew 4:18-22.
 3. He called out twelve apostles into a group (assembly).
 4. He called many others into the same group.
 - D. As for being born into the church at the point of salvation these first members were already saved under the ministry of John, Acts 1:22.
 - E. If one is made a member of the church when he is saved then Christ would not need to found the church, for saved people were already on hand long before Christ was born.

- II. The church that Jesus built was baptized with heaven's authority.
 - A. They were immersed in water by one with heaven's authority to do so.
 - B. The apostles all had John's baptism, Acts 1:22.
 1. John had God's authority to baptize, John 1:6, 33.
 2. Thus John baptized all of the first members of the called out group.
 3. He baptized them by immersion in the River Jordan.
 - C. As others were added to the group, they too were baptized (by the authority of Jesus), John 4:1-2.

- III. The church that Jesus built was a gospel believing and a gospel preaching group.
 - A. I think that no one would challenge the idea that the disciples of Christ believed the gospel of Christ. (Their belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior of men is the number one thing which distinguished them from others.)
 - B. The apostles were called of God to preach the gospel.
 1. Peter and Andrew, James and John were full time fishermen, but they gave that up to spend full time preaching the gospel.
 2. Matthew was a tax collector but he gave that up to preach the gospel.
 - C. Not all members of the church were called as full time preachers, but all gave witness of the gospel of Christ, Acts 1:8.

- IV. The church that Jesus built was a peculiar church. Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9
 - A. It was taught to believe and practice certain things (taught by Jesus himself). Matthew 28:20
 - B. What Jesus taught His disciples to believe and practice was different from Judah-ism, Matthew 7:29.
 - C. It was different from all of the heathenistic Gentile religions.

- D. It was a far cry from some of the so-called Christian religions of today.
- E. True churches today are just as different in today's world as His church was in that day, Peter 2:1-2.

V. The church that Christ built was a blessed church.

- A. It was not necessary for it to be large to be blessed.
- B. It was not necessary for it to be rich in order to be blessed.
- C. It was not necessary for it to be a trouble free church in order to be blessed.
- D. But it was blessed indeed.
 - 1. It was blessed by Jesus' presence.
 - 2. It was blessed by Jesus' power.
 - 3. It was blessed by Jesus' teaching.
 - 4. It was blessed by Jesus' provisions.
 - 5. It was blessed by Jesus' providence. (Jesus did not prevent hardships, but He turned every hardship to their good, Romans 8:28.

VI. The church that Christ built is an age lasting church.

- A. Jesus made that promise,
- B. This does not mean that that particular group of disciples still live on earth today.
- C. Nor does it mean that any group would continue to function there in Jerusalem where He left His church.
- D. But it does mean that the same kind of groups would exist somewhere in the world in every generation.
- E. They would not be identified so much by name as by their doctrine and practice.

Conclusion:

- 1. We are indeed blessed of God to have such a church right in this community for over one hundred years.
- 2. Have you believed the gospel which this church preaches? If not then believe and be saved today.
- 3. Are you a member of one of the Lord's churches which preaches and practices what the Bible teaches?
- 4. It would be a real source of blessings to you if you would seek membership in such a church.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 10-21-84 A.M.