

I Will Build My Church

No. 189

Introduction

- I. On one occasion when Jesus was in Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?”
 - A. They replied by saying, “Some say John the Baptist; some Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”
 - B. Jesus then asked, “**But who say ye that I am?**” **Relate Matt. 16:16-19.**
- II. In this conversation recorded in Matthew the 16th chapter we have some of the most important truths found anywhere in God’s word.
 - I. **The Identity Of Christ** - In the first place, this conversation reveals the identity of Christ.
 - A. The Jewish people thought Jesus was John the Baptist or one of the prophets raised from the dead. This was the popular opinion of Him. This is how they explained His supernatural power. Peter realized, however, that Jesus was more than a prophet. He realized Jesus was the anointed king of God’s people and He was the Son of God. (Matt.16:16).
 - B. **Jesus** placed His stamp of approval on this statement. (Matt. 16:17).
 - C. **God** also placed His stamp of approval on this statement. (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
 - D. **God** also placed His stamp of approval on this statement by raising Jesus from the dead. (Rom. 1:4).
 - II. **The Foundation Of The Church** - In the second place, this conversation reveals the foundation of the church.
 - A. In verse 18 Jesus said, “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.”
 - B. **What is the rock or foundation upon which Jesus promised to build the church?**
 1. The **Roman Catholic hierarchy** teaches Peter is the “rock” upon which the church is built. They base this upon the fact that the name Peter means “stone” or “rock.”
 2. They contend that the church was founded on Peter and he had supreme authority over the church and even over the whole world.
 3. They also contend that the Pope is the successor of Peter and he has authority over the church.
 - a. This doctrine was officially defined in the **Council of Florence** when it was said, and I quote:
“The apostolical chair and the Roman pontiff doth hold a primacy over the whole world and that the Roman pontiff is the successor of St. Peter, the prince of the apostles, and the true vicar of Christ, and the head of the church; and that he is the father and teacher of all Christians, and to

him in Peter full power is committed, by our Lord Jesus Christ, to feed, direct, and govern the universal church, according as it is contained in the acts of the general councils and in the holy canons.”

b. The **Vatican Council** of 1870 said:

“If any say that Peter was not appointed the prince of the whole church Militant or asserts that Peter directly received from our Lord Jesus Christ a primacy of honor only and not also a primacy of real and true jurisdiction, let him be anathema.”

c. **Pope Pius XI** said:

“The Roman pontiff has from on high an authority which is supreme, above all others and subject to none.” (Encyclical, Light of Truth, p. 5).

d. **Pope Leo XIII** said:

“We (the pope) hold upon this earth the place of the God almighty.” (Great Encyclical Letters, p. 304).

e. **He** also said:

“But the supreme teacher in the church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff as to God Himself!” (Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII, p. 193).

4. These quotations and hundreds of others that could be produced from Catholic sources show that Catholics teach Peter was the foundation and head of the church and his authority was imparted to the Popes of Rome.

C. **Let us study this passage carefully and see if it teaches these things.**

1. The name Peter come from a Greek word “petros” meaning a “stone” or “rock.” It is masculine in gender.
 - a. The word Jesus used, however, was “petra” which means “a ledge of rock,” and it is feminine in gender. The word “rock” then could not refer to Peter, but it refers to the confession Peter made that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - b. **The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ** . (1 Cor. 3:11).
 - c. Jesus is not the whole foundation. (Eph. 2:19, 20). See also 1 Pet. 2:5.
2. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that the scriptures teach that Christ is the head of the church, not Peter or any other man. (Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23).
 - a. Christ is called the “head” of the church.
 - b. Peter is never called the head of the church. He is never called a pope. He is never called the “chief of the apostles”. He is never called any more than an apostle and servant of Christ.

III. **Jesus Would Build His Church** - In the third place, this conversation reveals the fact that Jesus would

build or establish His church.

- A. Jesus never promised to build man made churches with man made doctrines, but He promised to build His own church.
- B. He said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it.”
 - 1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word “ekklesia” that means “called out.” It refers to those who have been called out of darkness into the light. It refers to the saved assembly of God’s people - to those cleanse by the blood of Jesus.
 - 2. It is synonymous with the word “kingdom” in the Christian age.
- C. The church or kingdom was established a short time after Jesus made this promise. (Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:6-8; 2:4, 22-36).

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. 25 "For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; 27 Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. 28 'Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.' 29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord,' Sit at My right hand, 35 Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. "' 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

1. Peter affirmed here that the crucified Lord had been raised from the dead and that He was reigning at the right hand of God.
2. From this time forward the church or kingdom is always spoken of as being established.
 - a. Acts 8:1; 11:30.
 - b. No longer was the kingdom at hand. (Matt. 3:2; 4:17).
 - c. It is now present. (Acts 8:2; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9).
3. The church then was established on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus, and it shall exist throughout the ages. Not even the power of “hades” (of death and evil) shall prevail against it.

IV. **Keys Of The Kingdom** - In the fourth place, this conversation reveals who was given the keys of the kingdom. Jesus said to Peter, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

- A. As key-bearer of the kingdom Peter was given the authority and privilege to open the door of the kingdom. He used these keys on the day of Pentecost when he opened the door of salvation to the Jewish nation and again at Caesarea when he opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles by preaching the message of salvation. Now both Jews and Gentiles can be saved.
- B. Jesus also said, “**And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**”

1. This verse is better translated by the **Updated New American Standard Version**. Quote.

MAT 16:19 "I will give you [a] the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and [b] whatever you bind on earth [1]shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth [2]shall have been loosed in heaven."

2. The **Amplified Bible**

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.”

3. What Peter would bind or loose would already be bound or loosed in heaven by God. In other words, Jesus was saying that Peter would have the right, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to bind and loose laws already made in heaven.
4. **This was not the exclusive right of Peter.** The power here given was also given to the other apostles. Jesus, speaking to all the apostles, said. (Matt. 18:18).

Conclusion.

- I. Someone might ask, “**How do you become a part of the church or kingdom Jesus build?**” Peter answered this question on the day of Pentecost. After Peter had declared that the kingdom or church had been established and that Jesus was reigning at the right hand of God, the Jews cried out saying, “Brethren, what shall we do?” **Peter** answered. (Acts 2:38).

II. Peter taught one becomes a member of the church through repentance and baptism. After one has been

baptized “for the remission of his sins,” the Lord adds him to the church where all spiritual blessings flow.

III. You can become a part of the church Jesus built by repenting and by being baptized for the remission of sins. The Lord will then add your to His church. Will you come as we stand and sing the hymn of invitation?

“Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)