

Song: "Past Me not Oh Gentle Savior"

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

Matthew 16:18, Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 21:42, Ephesians 5:27

Matthew 16:18, 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.

Isaiah 28:16, Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

Ephesians 5:27 He gave His Life for the Church so, 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. "Therefore, it is a Life giving Living Body"

TITLE: "The Church that Jesus Built"

INTRODUCTION

A. In Mt 16:18, we read where Jesus spoke of His church...

- a. In which He promises "I will build my church"
- b. In which not even the "gates of Hades" (i.e., death) shall prevail against it, either by trying to:
 - 1) Prevent its establishment (death did not prevent Jesus from building His church)
 - 2) Destroy the church (killing Christians does not destroy the church)

B. It is not uncommon today to hear people disparage the church...

- a. I have heard people say in effect, "Christ, yes; the church, no"
- b. Professing they love Jesus, desiring even to follow Him, they have little use for "the church"

C. This low estimation of the church may be due to several reasons, including...

- a. A lack of understanding of what the church truly is, as taught in the Bible
- b. A misconception of the church, fostered by erroneous views of the church

D. With this lesson, I wish to share "The Church Jesus Built", in which I hope...

- a. To increase our understanding and appreciation of the **Lord's church**
- b. To make sure that our concept of **the church** is in harmony with the Scriptures
- c. To note some of the challenges facing the **Lord's church** today

SERMONIC OUTLINE

I. A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declares that He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not overpower it. We all want to be part of the Church that Jesus is building. This isn't something we're building because only Jesus can build His Church.

The word “Ecclesiastes” is the Greek translation of “Qoholeth.” “Ekklesia” is usually translated “church” in the New Testament, but literally means “assembly.” (ecclesia),= the called out.

II. Anatomy of the Church JESUS built

In relation to architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference. A cornerstone marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction; with Jesus, the **CHIEF** Cornerstone.

There is a consistent thread that we are called out to be set apart. But there are many images of the Church in the Bible, but we want to look at the primary three.

- The Church as the Body of Christ, Christ as the **head** of the Church (Ephesians 1:10; 4:15), and Christians are the body.
- The Church as the "People of God" is another image of the Church. God says of the Church, "**I will be their God**, and they will be **my people**" (2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:10 NIV).
- The Church as the Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:32; Revelation 19:7; 21:9).

III. Church Structure - Head of the Church JESUS Built

If we were to create an organizational chart, Jesus Christ would fill the positions of Founder, President, CEO, CFO, and Chairman of the Board. In biblical language, Christ is “head over everything for the church” (Ephesians 1:22; cf. Colossians 1:18). The church is “his body, of which he is the Savior” (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus’ relationship with the church is very close and loving, for “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25). He desires “to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:27).

IV. Church Structure - Church offices

The pastor (literally, “under-shepherd”, Angel of the Church) is the human head of a church. In the early church, it seems there was a plurality of elders, also called “bishops” or “overseers.” It is the elders who lead the church and are responsible for teaching the Word and guiding, admonishing, and exhorting the people of God. (See 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Acts 14:23.) The man who fills the duties of a pastor/teacher is actually one of the elders.

The other office in the church is that of deacon. Deacons are men who handle the practical concerns of the church, such as caring for the sick, elderly or widowed and maintaining buildings or other property. (See Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-12.)

V. IDENTITY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT

VI. The Importance of JESUS’ Church

Many people, including people in the Church, have been culturally conditioned to have a low view of the Church. That happens because we take our cue from people rather than what Jesus has revealed. As a result, some people have a **superficial understanding of Christ and His Church**.

There are people who **come to church**, but are **not in the church**... Also, there are those who are **in the church**, but **the church is not in them**.

VII. Jesus is clear... “THIS TYPE IS NOT MY CHURCH”

NOT ABOUT MEN NAMING CHURCHES AFTER THEMSELVES.... Avoid those types of churches, instead of drinking the communion, they may be drinking cool aide with CYANIDE in it. (Jim Jones is a featured example among others).

Many have named churches, **MINISTRIES** after themselves, making themselves the head and not Christ. Some do it to draw crowds, but crowds don't make a church a church. Getting a crowd is easy... Just announce "Free beer after church for all who attend" you will get a crowd, also like the church in Ohio.... They offer Weed (cannabis, marijuana, "Mary Jane," "bud," "ganga," "reefer," "chronic," and "herb.") to members. You better not join Cecil Poe's Missionary Holy and Sanctified Baptist Church"....

VIII. Jesus's Church, "MY CHURCH"

A Big Heart

- The ministry of a church is not about property or pews, but people. If a church withers and dies, it's because the people in it have withered and died. The prime standard is "Regeneration, Justification and Sanctification", "David said, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me."
- The love of Christ is the mark of the church. By loving one another, we make the invisible God visible. If we are a community of nurturing, caring, and loving people—crossing barriers of age, sex, race, and rank—the world will see the love of Christ.

IX. YOU MUST GET ON BOARD for several reasons:

- **Luke 17:26 -28 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.**
 1. The Arc was water proof and it secured everyone on board
 - a. But it want be water, but fire next time
 2. The Church and only the Church will be Raptured, (caught up)
 - a. Therefore, only the Church will be Fire proofed
 - b. But must be Called Out, before you can be Caught Up

CLOSING:

X. MY CHURCH, Binding and Loosing:.... The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it!!!

Christ assess and evaluates His churches: Revelation Chap 2 and 3..."I know thy works, ...even where Satan's seat is, Doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, Synagogue of Satan, Luke Warn, neither hot nor cold, I will spue you out,

Jesus is saying My Church Will....

Connect Up: In Ephesians 4:15, Paul encouraged Christians to speak "**the truth in love.**" God speak both truth and love through Christ. God speak truth and love to the world. **(will obey the Will of the Father)**

Connect In: The early church was not perfect. Like the church today, there were problems. Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 give us a protocol for conflict resolution. **My Church Will show Mercy with Love**

Connect Out: My Church Will seek people with kindness and Mercy in the love and truth of Christ through a **big heart, firm stance, warm embrace, merry soul, and soft touch?**

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