

Gospel Meeting

Hear the Word of God
proclaimed by Ross Conley
of Auburn, KY

October 24-27

“Thy Servant Is Listening”

Thursday (7:00 pm)
Are You Listening?

Friday (7:00 pm)
Take Heed What You Hear

Saturday (7:00 pm)
Take Heed How You Hear

Sunday (9:30 am)
Understand What You Hear

Sunday (10:30 am)
Believing What You Hear

Sunday (6:00 pm)
Being Not A Hearer Only

Sentence Sermons

- Some who are afraid of doing too much end up doing too little.
- The church needs more members who talk less and do more.
- Don't try to get ahead of someone by trying to get even with them.
- God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, and acts with a hand that never fails.
- Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
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Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

October 20, 2019



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church

And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Matthew 16:18 -

The very first statement of Jesus about his church (where he uses the word “church”) is very profound and full of important lessons. In this verse we learn about, 1) the foundation, 2) the builder, 3) the building, 4) the duration, and, 5) the authority related to Jesus’ church.

This statement of Jesus in Matthew 16:18 is also the source of much controversy. Is Peter himself the “rock” upon which the church is built? Catholics and some Protestants say, “yes”. The reason for this claim is that “Peter” means “rock” and so Peter must be the rock upon which Jesus built his church (John 1:42). However, “Peter” (Gr. *petros*) is masculine and means “a piece of a stone or rock”; a “pebble or stone”. On the other hand, “rock” (Gr. *petra*) in Matthew 16:18 is feminine and means “a rock ledge, a rock cliff, a rock slab; a bed-rock” (see also Matthew 7:24).

Is Christ the “rock” upon which the church is built? Well, Christ certainly is the foundation of the church (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20) and Christ is indeed the “stone” which the builders rejected (Lk. 20:17-18; Acts 4:11-12; Rom. 9:32-33; 1 Pet. 2:4-8). But, the “rock” in this context refers to something else (**note**: Jesus, in this context, is an architect, not a foundation). Is Peter’s confession (more accurately, his revelation) the “rock” upon which the church is built? Yes!

The Lord’s church is not built upon the confessions of men (v. 13), but upon the divine revelation of God (v. 17). Note the important

connection between verse 16, 17, and 18 (note: the emphasis is **not** on “Thou art Peter...”, but on “And I also say unto thee...”). This section begins (v. 13) and ends (v. 20) with a discussion of the identity of Jesus. The identity of Jesus is the “rock” upon which the church is built.

The Lord’s church is built upon the basis (foundation) of Jesus being the Christ the Son of the living God. The Lord’s church is built upon the foundation of the identity of Jesus: the Christ, the Son of the living God as declared by the resurrection (Rom. 1:4; Acts 13:37-39; 1 Cor. 15:14-17). Grammatically, contextually, and biblically, the “rock” refers to the identity of Jesus as the Christ.

Consider the following words in this scripture: “I” - it was prophesied that Jesus, not man, would be the builder of his church (Am. 9:11-12; Zech. 6:12-13; Ac. 15:16). “I will...” - Jesus would build his church from a point yet in the future; his church was not present in the days of John the Baptist, but began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:47). “I will build” - the Lord’s church is like a building (1 Cor. 3:9,14; Eph. 2:20-21; 4:12,16; 1 Pet. 2:5). “My...” - the Lord’s church belongs to Jesus, not to men, because Jesus bought and built it (Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 4:16). “My church” - the Lord’s church (Gr. *ekklesia*) refers to an assembly of called out, saved people; not a building (Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:11,14). “My church” (singular) - the Lord’s church is singular in number; not “churches” (1 Cor. 12:13ff; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).

The Lord’s church is strong and nothing, including death (Gr. *hades*; not *gehenna* or hell, KJV) will prevail against it and keep it from being built (Acts 2:22-36; note especially v.24 and v.31; Rev. 1:13ff). The Lord’s church or kingdom will be everlasting (Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28) and death will not

prevail against it (Rom. 8:37-39; 1 Cor. 15:55).

“The keys...” - this is an instrument used to open a door and symbolizes authority (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 1:18; 3:7). “The keys of the kingdom” - this is the authority that Peter had in his gospel preaching to save Jews (Acts 2:14ff) and Gentiles (Acts 10:1ff; 15:7). “Bind ... loose” - this was the authority that Peter had to forbid (bind) and to allow (loose) on earth what had been bound and loosed in heaven. All the apostles in fact (Mt. 18:18), not just Peter, had this authority. The authority to bind and loose had already been settled in heaven (note the future perfect indicative, “shall have already been bound” and “shall already have been loosed”). Finally, the authority of the apostles came from the words of Jesus (Jn. 16:13-14; 1 Cor. 2:13; Gal. 1:11-12).

What can we learn from this great text of scripture about the Lord’s church. **“Upon this rock”** - the foundation of the Lord’s church is Jesus’ true identity as the Christ the Son of the living God; not the false claims of men. **“I will build”** - the builder of the church is Jesus and he wants us to be constructed (built up) using his word; not torn down. **“My church”** - the Lord’s church are the saved and they belong to him and are singular in number; not many denominations. **“And the gates of Hades...”** - the strength and duration of the Lord’s church is forever; not weak and temporary. **“The keys of the kingdom”** - the authority of the Lord’s church rests in the Lord’s representative apostles; not in the words of men today. Friend, will you become and remain a faithful a member of the Lord’s church today? - *Chris Reeves*