

THE VOW OF CHRIST THE BUILDER

By Paul R. Blake

TEXT: Matthew 16:13-19

Introduction:

- A. The Church is one of the most important Bible subjects.
 - 1. Was not an after thought like some think. Christ could not establish His kingdom, so He made the Church as a temporary measure.
 - 2. Vital part of the panoramic, eon-spanning scheme of redemption.
 - 3. It is the Kingdom to rule all kingdoms; Nebuchadnezzar's statute of various substances struck by a stone that became a mountain that filled the earth.
 - 4. Eph. 5 tells us that it is where salvation can be found and maintained.
 - 5. It is Christ's soul saving institution on earth; when we work for the Church, we work directly for Christ.
 - 6. It remains the most expensive organization in history, purchased with the most priceless substance in the universe... the blood of Deity.
- B. Jesus Christ promised to build it; ironically, He promised to build it in the same chapter in which He discusses His own death.
 - 1. There is much to be learned about the Church from the vow of Christ the builder in Matt. 16.

I. "UPON THIS ROCK..."

- A. Matt. 16:13-16 - The great confession by a little man.
 - 1. The confession is the context, the topic, the theme, the object of discussion, the whole point of Christ's discourse.
 - 2. Anything other than the confession makes this text illogical, ungrammatical, deconstructive, unimportant, and disharmonious with the rest of the Bible.
- B. Matt. 16:17 + "Thou art Peter."
 - 1. This great confession could not come from a little man without Divine intervention.
 - 2. "Thou art Peter." emphasizes this point; keeps Peter's perspective; OUR perspective.
 - 3. Gal. 2:9 - Peter was a pillar in the Church, not the foundation.
 - 4. 1Cor. 3:10-11 - Christ is foundation upon which the Church is built.

II. "I WILL BUILD..."

- A. Ps. 127:1 - "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."
 - 1. The Church could not have been built by any man.
 - 2. Matt. 16:28 - He promised to do it in the lifetime of His apostles.
 - 3. See it happen - Matt. 16:19; Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4, 36-41, 47.
 - 4. ANY church started after that is NOT the Lord's Church.
- B. Thousands of churches exist because men are dissatisfied with God's Builder and blueprints.
 - 1. THE Church was built by Christ; all others are Satan's imitations.

III. "MY CHURCH..."

- A. The Church belongs to Christ.
 - 1. Acts 20:28 - He holds the deed.
 - 2. Rom. 16:16 - It wears His name: Christ, God the Son.
 - 3. It is not the Christian's church, John the Baptist's church, Martin Luther's church, et cetera. - Matt. 15:13
 - 4. Other churches wear the names of their founders and doctrines.
 - 5. Poor counterfeits for the only true Church.
- B. Jesus said: "My Church"; singular.
 - 1. Prophets spoke of one church, not many.
 - 2. Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:44.
 - 3. The New Testament witnesses that there is only one, not many.
 - 4. Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23; Col. 1:18.
 - 5. Salvation is only found in His Church, not others.
 - 6. Eph. 5:23, 27.

IV. "THE GATES OF HADES SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT."

- A. Ecc. 9:10 - death ends man's work on earth.
 - 1. But Christ was not merely a man - Heb. 1:8; Col. 2:9.
 - 2. The grave would not prevent Him from completing His work.
 - 3. Acts 2:31 - Hades lost; Christ came back to finish.
 - 4. 1Cor. 15:19-20, 27

V. "I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

- A. A key affords entrance for the holder; the lack of a key prevents entrance to those without.
 - 1. Peter and the other apostles passed the keys on to the whole world, beginning at Pentecost in Jerusalem.
- B. All of the keys must be used to enter the kingdom.
 - 1. Faith is essential - Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; John 8:24.
 - 2. Repentance must be complete - Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38.
 - 3. Faith without confession saves no one - Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33.
 - 4. Baptism - Acts 2:38, 47; Gal. 3:26-27; Mark 16:16.

VI. "WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND... LOOSE..."

- A. Peter revealed God's law as he was directed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. John 14:26, 16:7, 13; 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:2-4
 - 2. We do not deal with man's law and doctrines, but God's.
- B. We must continue in God's law in order to remain saved.
 - 1. 2John 9-11

Conclusion: 1Cor. 15:1-4

- A. Christ promised to build His Church.
 - 1. He fulfilled His promise to the uttermost.
- B. You cannot afford to be outside of the body of Christ.