April 15, 2018 am

THE CHURCH BUILT ON THE ROCK

Reading: **Matt. 16:13-18**

**What did Jesus mean when He said He would build His church on the Rock?**

**What is the church and what is the rock?**

* The rock certainly is not Peter!
* The church is built on Peter?! Even if Peter means a rock, he is not THE Rock!
* I love Peter and especially what he became but my faith is not in him!
* All of the apostles would later have their place in the foundation. (**Eph. 2:19-22**)
* All have their names in the foundations of the wall. (**Rev. 21:14**)
* Peter was given no more authority than the rest of the apostles.
* All of the apostles would be given the keys to the kingdom – the teaching that would open the door to all men – Jews and Gentiles alike.
* The rock is identified in the confession of Peter.
  + **Jesus**is the *rock*, the Christ, the Son of God.
* The focus of this passage is on the *rock*, not on the church.
* The focus in this passage is on Jesus!
  + - Hades shall not prevail against *it*. (Aude McKee’s study, Mt. Sterling, *it* refers to the *rock*)
      * “Once more, this "it" may refer to Christ the rock, who, though he was brought to the dust of death, by the means of Satan, and the powers of darkness, yet to the ruin of him that had the power of death; and though death, and the grave, had power over him for a while, yet could not hold him; he rose victorious over them, and ever lives, having the keys of hell and death, to open the gates thereof, and let his people out when he thinks fit.”[[1]](#footnote-1) (John Gill)
      * *“His soul was not left in Hades”* (**Acts 2:31**)
* He was raised from the dead!
* "The *ekklêsia* is built upon the Messiahship of her master, and death, the gates of Hades, will not prevail against her by keeping Him imprisoned. It was a mysterious truth, which He will soon tell them in plain words (verse Mt 16:21); it is echoed in Ac 2:24,31" (McNeile). (quoted in RWP)
* This text really is about Jesus who is the Christ, the Son of the Living God! The Rock!

God being a Rock for His people is a concept spoken of often in the Psalms.

* *“The Lord is my rock … fortress … my deliverer, my God, my strength”* (**Ps. 18:2**)
* *“The Lord lives! Blessed by my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted”* (**Ps. 18:46**)
* *“Be my rock of refuge … For you are my rock and my fortress….”* (**Ps. 31:2, 3**)
* *“When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I”* (**Ps. 61:2**)
* What are the prominent ideas involved in these scriptures?
* The Lord is rock solid, strong, dependable, trustworthy, immovable, up high – ruling, in control.

**The church is the building that is built on the Rock**

* The church is His people. Each of us is to be built on the rock.
* We each are *living* *stones* in a spiritual house. (**1 Peter 2:5**)
* We are the house!(**Heb. 3:6**)
* Our faith is in the Rock. We trust him, we believe in Him. We obey Him. We follow Him.

# Consider the foundation of the church

# 1 Cor. 3:9-15

* The foundation is laid every time we tell the story of Jesus.
* We preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
* The church is still being built – one living stone at a time.
* The material will be tested by fire – it may be burned up or perfected.
* The day or time would come – not the last Day – the day of judgment
* **Luke 6:46-49**
* Dig down *deep* to get to the foundation.
  + - * Dig through our misconceptions, our doubts, false doctrines – teachings of men
      * Are we building on Jesus’ words – words the apostles preached and wrote?
* Maybe you are trusting in the foundation you are now standing on.
* Your house is still standing, you say.
* Maybe the storms haven’t yet come that are going to put the foundation to the test.
* Will our faith, our convictions, our beliefs and practices stand the test of the final judgment before the Lord?

**Have we checked our foundation lately?**

* Do we hear but do nothing? Or do we hear and then obey?
* Do we call Jesus Lord but not do the things He says?
* Have we been forgiven of our sins? On His terms?

Woodland Hills – Oct. 17, 2004

1. https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/matthew-16-18.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)