

## UPON THIS ROCK

Matt. 16:13-20

### I. INTRODUCTION:

1. **3** What comes to your mind when you hear the word *church*?

- ☛ Red-brick building with a cross-topped spire?
- ☛ A denominational organization or a hierarchy of clergymen?
- ☛ Indeed, if you looked up *church* in a standard dictionary both definitions would be listed.

2. **\*\***However, the only definition of church that matters is the one found in the Bible.

**\*\***"ekklesia" (74 times in NT): from *ek*, (out of), and *kaleo* (to call)(Vine). The church is an "assembly" of people that have assembled as the result of answering a "call" from a "herald."

3. **4** Two key elements: Acts 19:28-32

A. **\*\* assembly** = people (v. 32: "for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together"; i.e., a group of people drawn together as the result of answering a specific...).

B. **\*\* call** = summons (i.e., this group of people assembled in response to a specific call or summons; they had answered the "confused" summons issued by Demetrius and his cohorts).

(Acts 19:28-32, The confused assembly at Ephesus was an *ekklesia* in v. 32, in v. 39 the townclerk warned "it shall be determined in a lawful assembly", in v. 41 the townclerk "dismissed the assembly")

4. **5** New Testament church:

A. **\*\* assembly** = people = What people? Col. 1:18-22; Heb. 12:23 (*to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect*); Acts 2:41, 47; Eph. 5:23

B. **\*\* call** = summons = 2 Thess. 2:13-14 (...*God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*); Mk. 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:9 (*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*); 1 Jn. 1:3 (*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ*.) (fellowship = relationship)

### II. DISCUSSION: **6** Now let's turn to a very key passage Matthew 16:18. **7** From this passage we learn **5** critical facts about the church revealed in the New Testament: **\*\***(outline 5 major points)

1. **8** It was built by Jesus and thus belongs to Jesus: "*I will build My church*" (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 8:2; Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16)**\*\* 9** Look at these "churches." They all began well after Jesus established His church. They all were established by someone other than Jesus in a place other than Jerusalem and wear names other than Jesus' name. **\*\***Do you want to belong to a church built by someone besides Jesus? Do you want to belong to a church that wears a name other than He who purchased it with His own blood? Jesus Christ? Acts 4:12 (*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*); Eph. 5:23; Heb. 8:2; Psalms 127:1; Matt. 15:13.

Church	Time	Place	Founder
Roman Catholic	606 AD	Rome	Boniface III
Episcopal	1520 AD	England	Henry VIII
Presbyterian	1536 AD	Switzerland	John Calvin
Congregational	1550 AD	England	Robert Browne
Baptist	1607 AD	Holland	John Smythe
Methodist	1739 AD	England	John Wesley
Mormon	1830 AD	America	Joseph Smith
Adventist	1830 AD	America	William Miller
Christian Scientist	1866 AD	America	Mary Baker Eddy
Jehovah's Witness	1872 AD	America	Charles T. Russell

2. **10 It was built upon a rock:** “on this rock I will build My church” (Matt. 16:18→16:16: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”). Remember: the church is an assembly of people; people who have answered God’s call through the gospel.

**I Peter 2:9:** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

The church is the “body” of the saved (Acts 2:47: “...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”; Eph. 5:23)

**Foundation:** a building is only as strong as its foundation. “A foundation is a force sufficient to withstand any pressure or stress placed upon it. Its purpose is to counterbalance the force of gravity so that what goes up doesn’t come down.” (K. L. Chumbley, p. 297) The Sears (Willis) Tower weighs 222,500 tons with a 100 foot deep foundation with 200 circular caissons imbedded in bedrock. A *petra* indeed!

**Now think about it:** The church is the “...community of believers against whom the power of sin and death would hold no victory.” (K. Pope, p. 504)

**Therefore,** the foundation of the church cannot be a mere man (e.g., Peter, *petros*), but is Jesus who has won the victory over sin and death! *Petra:* bedrock!

**Heb. 2:14-15:** *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

**\*\*Acts 2:22-24:** the specific case of “Jesus of Nazereth”

**\*\*Acts 2:25-31:** the general case of “the Christ”

**\*\*Acts 2:32-36:** the conclusion: “Jesus of Nazereth” meets the qualifications set forth for “the Christ”; “Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

**Jesus meets the qualifications! Rom. 1:4:** *declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

**Thus...**

He is qualified to be “head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.” (Eph. 5:23)

He “is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:11-12)

He is the only one qualified to add the saved to the church! Acts 2:47

Therefore, He is the “rock” upon which the church is built! He is the FOUNDATION!

**1 Cor. 3:11:** *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

**\*\***Do you want to be a member of a church built upon any other foundation than Jesus Christ?  
Psa. 127:1

3. **11 It is singular, Jesus built only one church:** *"I will build My church"* (Matt. 16:18; Jn. 10:16 (And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.); Eph. 2:11-16; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47; Heb. 8:2) **\*\***How many churches did Jesus promise to build? Only ONE! How many churches do we see today? Which church do you want to belong to? Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:13
4. **12 It was not in existence when Jesus lived on earth:** *"I will build My church"* (Matt. 16:18; Dan. 2:44: *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*). **13**

Head	Gold	Babylonian
Chest/Arms	Silver	Medo-Persian
Belly/Thighs	Bronze	Grecian
Legs/Feet	Iron + Clay	Roman

**14, 15, \*\***

**16**How do we know?

**Isa. 2:2-3:** *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people...*

**Heb. 1:1-2:** *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

**Lk. 2:1:** *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

**Lk. 23:1-2:** *Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."*

**Mk. 9:1:** *And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. (Col. 1:13)*

**Lk. 24:49:** *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

**Acts 1:4:** *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)*

**Acts 1:8:** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:*

**Acts 2:1-4:** *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

## 17 Transitive property of equality: \*\* 18 \*\*

IF	a (kingdom) = b (power)	Mk. 9:1
AND	b (power) = c (Holy Spirit)	Acts 1:8
THEN,	a (kingdom) = c (Holy Spirit)	Acts 2:1-4

19 Matt. 16:18 (“I will build My church”); Acts 2:47 (first time church spoken of as in existence); Col. 1:13 (He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,) (Matt. 16:19; Acts 2, Acts 10) 20 When and where did the church you are a member of come into existence? When and where did church of Matt. 16:18 come into existence? In Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the crucifixion of Jesus! Heb. 8:2

5. 21 **It cannot fail:** “the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18) Hades is the realm of disembodied spirits. If the Hadean realm could not hold its founder it will not hold His followers!

**Acts 2:24:** whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

**Acts 2:30-32:** Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

**Rom. 1:4:** declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

**Heb. 7:25-28:** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

**Therefore: Heb. 6:19:** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,

**1 Peter 1:3-5:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (Phil. 4:7)

**We have a living hope because we have a living Savior!**

**\*\*** Any church not built by Jesus is not built upon the rock of a living Savior! It cannot be the ONE and ONLY church that is able to give us peace of mind here on earth and take us to heaven when we die! If Jesus didn't build it, it WILL fail! (Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:13)

## II. 22 CONCLUSION:

### I. Invitation:

- A. What church do you belong to, or want to belong to? (reiterate 5 points; Heb. 8:2; Psa. 127:1; Matt. 16:18) Don't you want to be a member of the church we've read about in the Bible...now today? Jesus will add you to His church today if...

✓ **Hear:** Rom. 10:17

✓ **Believe (faith):** Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6

- ✓ **Repent:** Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- ✓ **Confess:** Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:36-37
- ✓ **Baptism:** Acts 2:37-38; 22:16; 2:41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27
- ✓ **Faithfulness:** Col. 1:18-23; 2 Pet. 1:3-11

B. Perhaps you have obeyed the gospel in the past and have fallen in your service to Him. If your sin is of such a nature that it needs to be confessed before this good audience why not come today? If there are any in the audience subject to the invitation we bid you come while we stand and sing.