

“Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church!”

Building His Church: Series Introduction

| September 12, 2021

VERSE FOR THE YEAR: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

VERSES FOR TODAY: Matthew 16:18-19

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Upon this Rock: vs. 16

- Christ the _____

Acts 4:11-12 Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.”¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

“I will build my Church”: vs. 16

- Christ the _____

Galatians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

- Christ the _____

- Christ is the _____

“Gates of Hell”: vs. 16

“Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven”: vs. 17

- _____ is granted to us as His Body. (Ephesians 3:10-11)

Why is it critical that we begin our understanding of the Church here?

What are the challenges?

Is there a warning? (Matthew 16:21-23)

Digging Deeper

Study and conversation with your small group and on your own

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever been part of a church congregation before LifeWay?

HEAD questions (*What do I know about this subject?*)

- What was your understanding of what a church should be, before hearing the sermon?
- Has anything changed in your understanding of a church after this morning's teaching?

HEART questions (*Does my understanding need to be adjusted?*)

Examine these verses that describe the Church and members of the Church:

- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**
 - Look carefully at vs. 11-13. With what kinds of things do we often feel like we should build a church, that are futile in the end?
 - On what eternal things should we build our church?
- **Ephesians 2:19-22**
 - What is the description of a life NOT in relationship with Christ? (Vs. 19)
 - What is a description of life that IS in relationship with Christ? (vs. 19)
 - What holds the "whole building" together? (vs. 21)
 - What lives in our "Church building" when we are truly his Church? (vs. 22)
- **1 Peter 2:4-8**
 - This passage describes us as members of his Church. What are some of the characteristics of members of his Church body?
 - How does this affect you?
- **Revelation 1:18**
 - What is the description of Jesus in this passage? Why would Christ be the "rock" on which we build all our truth?
- **Ephesians 3:10**
 - What is God's plan for the Church? How important does this make the work of the Church?

When the early church was being formed in the story line of the book of Acts, a part of Peter's testimony and sermon to the religious Jewish leaders was based out of Old Testament prophecy. Read Peter's testimony and compare it to the Old Testament passages. Why was it so important for Peter to rely on these Old Testament prophecies?

- **Acts 4:11-12**
- **Isaiah 28:15-18**
- **Psalms 118:22-24**

HANDS questions (*What am I going to do about it?*)

- If the Church is the most powerful institution in the world, and Christ has left us as his Body in this world to do HIS work in the world, what do you need to change about your understanding of your part in his Church Body?

Finish: Quote 1 Corinthians 12:27 from memory to the rest of your group.