**JESUS - THE CHURCH HE BUILT**

***MATTHEW 16:13-18 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – **MATT. 16:13-18 -** ***When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it***

Christ states very clearly for us that he will build his church. There is not much if any disagreement that Jesus built his church. Jesus asked his disciples a question, “Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?” He wanted to know the perception of the public so they gave him the answer some say you are John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and some say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

The people recognized Jesus was different from other teachers.

**MATT. 7:28-28** – At the end of his message from the mountain ***- And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.***

**JN. 3:1-2** – Nicodemus recognized Jesus was a teacher come from God - There ***was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."***

**JN. 7:46** – The officers of the chief priest and Pharisees exclaimed ***- The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"***

In verse 15 – Jesus says but who do you say that I am? Peter quickly answers – “Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God.”

In verse 18 – Christ acknowledges Peter (small stone) and says “on this rock” the truth of Peter’s confession that Jesus Christ is deity that he is the Son of God, the church will be built. Therefore Christ is the foundation stone on which the church would be built and not even death will prevent it from being established. Notice the nature of the foundation is solid not soft, not adrift but anchored – **HEB. 12:26-28** - ***Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.***

1. **WHO IS THE ROCK UPON** **WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT?**
   1. **ISA. 28:16** – The stone refers to Christ in the NT and it would be laid in Zion.
   2. **ISA. 4:3** – Where is Zion? Mt. Zion is in Jerusalem the words are used interchangeably.
   3. **HEB. 4:14-15** – The stone laid in Zion was to be a tried and tested or proven stone. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are yet without sin.
   4. **EPH. 2:19-22** – This passage proves the foundational cornerstone Isaiah was speaking of was Christ.
2. **WHO IS THAT** **FOUNDATION?**
   1. **1 COR. 3:11** – Christ is the only foundation for the church Jesus promised to build.
   2. **MATT. 16:18** – Christ makes the statement “I will build my church? This shows Jesus is the builder and that the church has not been built yet. Why did Jesus wait?
   3. **ACTS 2:30-36** – Jesus could only become the foundation of the church he was to build when he became both Lord and Christ. The one who will reign and rule over what he has built.
   4. Church established shortly after Jesus said “I will build my church.”
      1. **MARK 9:1** – Some would still be alive when the Kingdom (church) would be established.
      2. **ACTS 2:36-41, 47** – Gospel proclaimed on Pentecost and the Lord added the saved to the church? Which one? The one he promised to build the only church we can read of in the scriptures.
      3. **ACTS 5:11** – The church spoken of as being in existence
      4. **ACTS 8:1-3** - A great persecution came upon the church
3. **MY CHURCH SHOWS POSSESION** -
   1. **ACTS 20:28** – Shows the church belonged to Christ – Not Luther, Calvin, the Pope, or Joseph Smith.
   2. **HEB. 3:6** – Christ is over his own house. Christ is the head of the household.
   3. **1 TIM. 3:15** – Church is referred to as the house of God because it belongs to God (Jesus). This church Jesus purchased is the pillar and ground of the truth.
4. **CHRIST IS THE HEAD** -
   1. **EPH. 1:22-23** – Christ is the head of his church which is his body. The church has two parts the head which Christ occupies and the body which is composed of all the saved.
   2. **COL. 1:17-18** – Christ holds the preeminent position in the church not a pope, pastor (elders) or an evangelist. Everyone must submit to the head who is Christ.
   3. **EPH. 1:7** - Jesus paid the price to redeem us by shedding his blood. It is the cost of his own blood that Jesus paid for the church.
   4. **ACTS 4:10-12** – Christ is the cornerstone of the church and salvation cannot be found in any other name. We can only be saved in the name of Christ
   5. **1 PET. 2:3-4** – Christ is the living stone to which we are to come. He is precious to the believer. Is he precious to you?

**CONCLUSION** –

Would you come to Christ today by obeying the gospel?

If you do he will add you to his church.

The church that Christ built!!!