

Introduction

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said to Peter, *“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.”*

Jumping forward to fifty days after Jesus’ death, we see a reference to the church in existence. Luke wrote, *“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:46-47)

In this this final lesson, “The Church,” we will look at several aspects of the Lord’s church.

NOTES

The Church is the Called Out

- A. Through out the history of His people, God has called for His people to come out of bondage.
 1. Approximately 3,500 years ago, God called the nation of Israel to come out of Egyptian bondage.
 2. Around 1000 years later, God called the nation of Judah to return from captivity in Babylon. To this generation, Isaiah wrote, *“Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD.”* (Isaiah 52:11)
 3. After the death of Jesus Christ, God called His people to come out from their bondage to sin.

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| The Gospel | | The Church | |
| Jesus the Christ | | The Apostles | |
| God’s Covenant with Israel | | God’s Disobedient People | |
| Man and Sin | God’s Promise to Abram | | |
| God’s Everlasting Word | | | |

World Filled with Sin

NOTES

- B. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, *"...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*
 - 1. The Greek word translated as "church" is *ekklesia*. The word is defined as "from *ek*, 'out of,' and *klesis*, 'a calling'." (Vine's)
 - 2. This word was used to refer to people called out, such as to an assembly or a meeting.
 - 3. The church Jesus would build would be an assembly of people called out of sin to follow Him.
- C. Throughout the New Testament letters, we see those who follow Jesus were called out by God.
 - 1. God *"called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus."* (1 Peter 5:10)
 - 2. God *"saved us and called us with a Holy calling."* (2 Timothy 1:8-9)
 - 3. God called us into the *"fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 1:9)
 - 4. God called us *"in one body."* (Colossians 3:15)

The Church is the Body of Christ

- A. The called out make up the church, the body of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- B. Jesus is the head of the body, the church. (Colossians 1:16-18)
 - 1. Jesus is *"head over all things to the church."* (Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - 2. The church is subject to Jesus. (cf. Ephesians 5:24)
- C. There is only one body, but many members.
 - 1. We have been *"baptized into one body."* (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
 - 2. We are many members in one body. (1 Corinthians 12:20)
 - 3. Being members of the one body makes us members of one another. (Romans 12:4-5)

The Church is the Household of God

- A. The apostle Paul referred to the church as the household of God. (1 Timothy 3:15)
- B. God is the Father of the house. (Ephesians 3:14; 1 Corinthians 8:6)
- C. Jesus is *"Son over His own house."* (Hebrews 3:6)

- D. Christians are God's children through the spirit of adoption. (Romans 8:14-17)
- E. Christians are God's own special people. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
 - 1. We are a chosen generation.
 - 2. We are a royal priesthood.
 - 3. We are a holy nation.
 - 4. We are God's own special people.
 - 5. We are the people of God who have obtained mercy. Cf. Romans 9:22-29

Conclusion

In the beginning, man became separated from God through sin. As we have seen in this study, God had a plan for salvation for all who would follow Him. This plan was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross.

Through Jesus Christ, a body of believers were established. These believers would become members God's own special people, a group called out of darkness, a group who belongs to the household of God.

Let us never take for granted the church, the called out by God. We are sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. We are members of the wonderful body of Christ, the church. ◀

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