

This Is Our Church This Is Our Time

Matthew 16:13-19 - Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³ 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.

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

It is good to belong. A sense of belonging has been the culminating factor in many great accomplishments in the world.

The pursuit of belonging has caused men to reach beyond the boundaries of fear and doubt into the arena of success.

I want to tell you right away...***if you are looking for something to belong to***, you have found the right one, **(Jesus)! AND MY CHURCH....**

The church is not an institution, its not a club, its not merely a fellowship of believers...**it is the body of Christ!**

- **He is the head** and we are the body.
- We are **a part of** this thing!

Employee owned...how many times have you seen workers wearing a name tag that has employee owner on it?

That simple tag is a beacon to the world, ***I am an owner*** of this company, **I care!**

When the church was established, it was done so to bring the body of Christ into action!

It was **not** birthed to form a religious society or a gathering of faithful people in the earth.

The church was born to involve you and I in the power of God's work on an individual level as well as the whole.

Matt 16:18-19 - 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.

¹⁹ **And I will give you** the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

I want you to notice something with me -

The revelation of God in Christ is the foundation of everything!

- **Redemption.** Only through Jesus.
- **Sanctification.** Only through Jesus.
- **Justification.** Only through Jesus.

The understanding of **the Oneness of God** is not a trivial thing. It is not an extra blessing to the church. **It is the pivotal truth in the church.**

We love verse 18. We have shouted over that verse for years. Especially at **MY CHUCH.**

- Upon this rock **I will build my church** and **the gates of hell shall not prevail** against it.

What a powerful revelation.

- Even the very gates of hell **cannot withstand the name of Jesus!**
- The gates of hell **cannot overcome the church** of Jesus Christ!

What a rock to build upon. Not a junior god. Not part of God. But **God himself.**

If you are going to build on anything **build on the solid name of Jesus!**

The revelation of God in Christ.

Matthew 7:24-27 - Build on the Rock

²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

The wise man builds his house on the rock

- That word Rock is *petra* (pet'-ra); a (mass of) rock
- Everyone say mass of rock. Say it again.

This church is not built on shifting sand!

- This church is not built on corruptible things!
- It is built on the only solid rock!
- Everyone say, **this is my church!**

Lorenzo Anderson – The devil tried to kill you, to check you out for good!

- God had the final answer....

Mark & Lisa Beair – The enemy thought he could destroy you with a bad decision!

- But God redeemed you with forgiveness through the blood of Jesus...

You're Story – The greatest attack's the enemy could use against God's children

- You've been shot, stabbed, pronounced dead, overdosed, bankrupt, breached, busted, disgusted, broken, lied too and lied about, stolen from, done wrong, hated, despised, and rejected!!!!

MY CHURCH! The greatest attacks of Satan cannot stop god's people!

I heard a story of a Little old lady, she went home and a man was in her garage. He tried to rob her and she rebuked him in Jesus I name.

He shot her. Bullet didn't touch her.

Burned a hole in her shirt, took a chunk out of the concrete floor when it hit.
She was unhurt!

God's church is a powerful church. His name is still a powerful name!
It can even protect from point blank gunfire!

Somebody shout "My church" is built on the rock!

Jesus to told Simon ...you are Peter *Petros* (pet'-ros); a (piece of) rock

- In other words...**you are a part of this thing.**
- I am *building the church* on the rock, and you are a piece of that Rock!

Church, I want you to realize today...this is our church!

- It's time to take ownership and act like it!
- **What are you saying pastor?**

I'm saying **the devil wants us to think** that the church is regulated to a back row because it's not the most popular thing...he is wrong.

- This church takes a back seat **to nothing!** This is God's church!
- **Satan wants us to believe** that we are merely associated with the church through beliefs or creeds...again, **he is wrong.**

Jesus identified Peter as a part of the great rock the church would be built upon.

In other words, it is going to take the efforts of us to achieve **the single greatest move of God** that this world has ever seen!

God wants all of us to know that we are integral in the working of the church.
It needs us!

- **We're the body of Christ now!**
- That's why when we pray...god moves.

Matthew 16:19 - And **I will give you** the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- That's why when we loose on earth, it's loosed in Heaven.
- When we bind on earth its' bound in heaven!
- **We aren't second rate!**
- This is ***God's promise!***

High five somebody and tell them **this is "My Church!"**

Now tell someone else, this is **my time!**

I was talking to a friend of mine this week about **Springfield football.**

He told me, ***"I really believe that this is our year."***

- I have seen a lot of good teams, but there is something about this one that makes me believe that this is our year.
- ***It's our time to shine.***
- ***AD at Springfield said "we need to never stop believing."***

It's time for "**MY CHURCH!**" to believe that **this is our time!**

It's our time. Somebody shout it's our time!

Life is Too Short - Most people could do more than they think they can, but they usually do less than they think they can...

- **You never know** what you cannot do until you try.
- ***"Moderation is a fatal thing. Nothing succeeds like excess."***
- **Everything is possible – Never use the word Never!**

Never tell a young person that something **cannot** be done.

God may have been waiting for centuries for somebody ignorant enough of ***the impossible*** to do that thing.

If you devalue your dreams, rest assured **the world won't raise the price.**

*You will find that **great leaders** are rarely 'realistic' by other people's standards*

I have to tell you one more time...*church as usual* is about to change!
We are due to recognize *that it is our time!*

To believe an idea impossible is to make it impossible...

- As soon as you utter the words, "*I can't*" you've failed

Too many *ideas or possibilities* have been *killed at birth* simply *because of a cowardly imagination.*

If our God truly is as awesome as His word declares that he is....*why* do we dream *such small dreams*, and *attempt such little things!*

- It's time to *believe* great, *attempt* great, *achieve* great!

CLOSE:

Listen to pastor today...I am not about hype. I have suffered at the hands of mere hype long enough...I am talking about reality.

There are churches *all around the world* that are *thriving in spite of* the critics that say *that they won't!*

Right now people *are achieving* what others told them *was impossible!*

Walt Whitman (Poet) -

There is a man in the world who never gets turned down, wherever he chances to stray;

He gets the glad hand in the populous town, or out where the farmers make hay;

He is greeted with pleasure on deserts of sand, and deep in the isles of the woods;

Wherever he goes there is a welcoming hand – he's the man who delivers the goods.

- This world is looking for a church *that is able to deliver the goods.*
- A church that believes *the word of God is for today,* for us.

I have said all of this to say...**this is our church...this is our time**...let's do something.

It is time for every individual to take ownership of this thing!

From *praying to cleaning*. **Believing to achieving!** It takes *the body*.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

When my people who are called by my name pray....