

CHRIST'S CHURCH

Matthew 16:18

Today let's examine Christ's wonderful, glorious church

I. THE BUILDING PLANS - Matthew 16:18

A. A CONFESSION: "Upon this rock"

1. The "rock" is Peter's confession
2. The profession is "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16)
- Jesus is the designated and divine One
3. The foundation: The church would not survive on sketchy sentiment or vague definition ... Here is something concrete (rock solid) and foundational that all who come into the church must confess

B. THE CONSTRUCTION: "I will build My church"

1. The proposal: I will build.
2. The preeminence: My church (see Colossians 1:18-22)

C. THE CONQUEST: And the gates of Hades will not overpower it

1. Christ's church cannot be defeated by death (see I Corinthians 15:55)
2. Christ's church cannot be overcome by the Devil (see Romans 8:31-39)

II. THE BUILDING PIECES - Acts 1-15

A. A PRAYERFULLY UNITED ASSEMBLY (1:12-14)

B. A SPIRIT-FILLED COMPANY (2:1-4, 12)

1. The details (1-4)
2. Their declaration (12)

C. A REDEEMER-BELIEVING COMMUNITY (2:41)

1. Believing: They received His word
- Calling on Christ's name for salvation (21)
2. Baptized: Publicly identifying with Christ's death, burial and resurrection
3. Belonging: Put onto the roles of this local church

D. A WHOLLY-COMMITTED CONGREGATION

1. Sacrificially sharing and celebrating with one another (2:44-47, 4:32-37)
2. Choosing godly leadership (6:1-6)
3. Teaching and preaching Christ (5:42, 11:19-21)
4. Resolving doctrinal issues (15:1-29)

III. THE BUILDING PROCESS

A. CONSIDERATIONS

1. People are required for Christ's church to exist
2. Without people to make up the pieces, Christ's plan would not have been completed
3. The plans are the same today as they were in the 1st century ... and they still require people

B. OBSERVATIONS

1. We are people
2. We are pieces
3. We are people and pieces in a particular place
4. We are people and pieces in a local church

C. APPLICATION

1. What happens when the people who are pieces don't show up?
2. How many missing pieces does it take to affect the church?
3. Are you as a people/piece helping or hindering Christ's church plan?

CONCLUSION:

Christ's wonderful, glorious local church needs Christian people present for His plan to be accomplished.