The Church As Built By Christ

Robert Harkrider · Matthew 16:13–19 · Series: **The New Testament Church**

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus here stated, about a year before his death, I will build my church.
- What is the church that Jesus Christ built? What is it like? Our world today is certainly filled with different kinds of churches in every city.
- And the question certainly legitimately arise, can all of these be right?

1 The Church According to God's Eternal Purpose

Joel 2; Isaiah 2; Daniel 2:40–44

- When we talk about the church, it is not something that man has the right to design. It is not something that we make and shape according to what we like.
- We read from Isaiah chapter 2 that in the last days the mountain of the Lord's house would be established in the top of the mountains.
- In the days of what we now know as the Roman Empire, even specified a time, that God would set up his kingdom, a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.
- The apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost quoted from Joel and said, This is that of which the prophet was speaking.
- We now do not search the Old Testament or the law of Moses to learn how about the design of the Lord's church or how we worship and work in the Lord's church.

2 Widely Different Concepts of What a Church Is

- There are widely different concepts as to what a church is, what it's supposed to be.
- There are some people who select a church based upon those kind of standards.
- They still view a church as, even with its spiritual activities, as activities that their own board can decide what is right or what is wrong and what fits their desires.
- So they again go by standards according to human judgment.

3 What Does the Bible Say About His Church?

Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 2:47

- But today we want to talk about the church as built by Christ. Not as that which is designed by man.
- But really, what does Christ say? What does the Bible say about his church that he said that he would build?
- There should not be church of Christ doctrine as such.
- In Acts 2 and verse 38, Peter answered, Repent and be baptized. Every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.
- The Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved.

4 The Church Is a Relationship of Saved People

Ephesians 3:1–11

- The real first point that we need to make in understanding the church as built by Christ is that it is simply a relationship of saved people.
- The church is not a corporate entity. It is not a corporation with its rules and regulations that are governed by a board of directors. Christ is its head.
- Jesus didn't say, I will build my churches, and you pick the one you like. Jesus said, upon this rock, I will build my church.
- But the building is not the church. The church is a relationship of saved people.
- That now, under principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- It is a relationship in which both Jew and Gentile, these are brought together into one body, calling upon the Lord, finding salvation.

MY NOTES