

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Matthew 16:13-20--January 12th, 2025



Sermon Recap:

The Church that Christ Built

I. The Church's Architect

- V.13-16--It would have been utterly shocking to everyone, but this is the heart of the gospel. Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the Messiah.
- V.17--Following this statement, Jesus immediately moves on to his mission, "I will build my church."
 - Church- *ekklesia*- a congregation or an assembly of people. This is a people united by the truth, Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.
- "I will"- The purpose for the coming of the Messiah was to build his church.
- "...build..."- We may plant. We may water. But it is ultimately the work of Christ that builds and grows his church.
- "...my..."--English word for church comes from the Greek word *kuriakon*- "belonging to the Lord." We do not own the church. The Lord built the church and it belongs solely to him.
- "...church."-The church is the bride of Christ and she is altogether precious and beautiful in his eyes (Song of Solomon 1:15; 2:10). We should see the church with the same eyes and mind of the Lord.
 - Jeff Johnson says, "*The fact that Christ died for the church must elevate it as more than just a Sunday morning punch-in, punch-out activity for us.*"

II. The Church's Construction

a. Means

- V.18- Peter, the apostles, and the prophets are the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:11-22). Through the ministry of these men, the church is established, it is built, and it grows.

b. Material

- It wasn't the men, as much as the gospel that they preached that served as the foundation. It was the gospel message that the Lord used to establish and build the church.
 - The gospel is the heart of the Christian message, the foundational message of the church, and the keys by which a person enters the church, and ultimately the kingdom of heaven.

c. Mortar

- The universal church, is that large scale church built by Jesus that assembles people from every tongue and tribe. It is the invisible, global church.
- This invisible church is made visible in the local church. Within the local assembly there should be different people, cultures, races, personalities, and even sins who are brought together, not just as a church, but as a family.
 - What unites different people together? They are united by faith and bound by grace.

III. The Church's Security

- V.18- Death and Satan have been defeated.They cannot conquer Christ, so they will come to the church, doing their best to try and tyrannize us, and unsettle us, and destabilize us, and cause disunity among and all of these things, and we need to be alert to his schemes. He's a roaring, roaring lion, seeking those whom he may devour.
- The gates of hell may press against us, but there is nothing for them to do.
- Why? Because Christ arose.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the church?
- Why is the church not a verb, location, or idea?
- What distinguishes the church from a social club?
- According to v.18...
 - What is the purpose for the coming of the Messiah?
 - Who builds the church?
 - Who owns the church?
 - Why is the church so precious?
- What is the foundation of the church?
- What is the material used to build the church?
- What binds the church together?
- What security does the church have against the gates of hell?
- How does that make the church safe?

Application:

- What assumptions from your experience, upbringing, education, etc. have you had about the church?
- How would you have defined the church before today?
- Is the church precious and beautiful to you? How so?
- Is it a priority for you?
- How could you better “fold your life into the life of the church?”
- What security do you find in the church?
- What does it mean that it is “His church?”

