

The Function of the Church -1/08/23

TEXT - Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

INTRO – The first mention of the church is Mt. 16:18. Jesus states He will build His church.

I. The Church is Built By Jesus Christ

A. The church is God's idea.

He said "I" will build it.

B. The church belongs to Him

"My church"

C. The church is to be built

I will "build" it

D. It withstand Satan's attacks

The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

II. The Definition of the Church

The church is a called-out assembly of baptized believers gathered together to carry out the great commission.

A. The church consists of saved people

B. The appointed church leaders are pastor and deacons

C. The two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's supper

III. The Purpose of the Church

A. To assemble – The very meaning of the word church means to assemble. *ekklesia* from *ek*, "out of," and *klesis*, "a calling" *kaleo*, "to call"

B. To extend itself – It is the Great Commission not the great suggestion.

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 2:46-47 *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

C. To protect –

1. From false doctrine from without

2. From sin from within

Matthew 18:17 *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church:*

but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

D. To edify

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

E. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

1 Timothy 5:20 *Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*

F. To comfort

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

G. To pray

James 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Ephesians 3:14-19 *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

H. To fellowship

Acts 2:42 *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

2 Corinthians 8:4 *Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

I. To worship

John 4:23-24 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

IV. The Future of the Church

A. The church world-wide is weakening

B. One day she will be raptured from this world

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so*

them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Habakkuk 2:14 *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Ephesians 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

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