

The Confession of Peter and the Transfiguration of Christ

Falcon Baptist Church. March 2015

Matthew 16:13-20 and 17:1-13

Sermon notes

How do you understand the End Times? Just for fun:

- 1) Pre-tribulation?
- 2) Mid-tribulation?
- 3) Post-tribulation?
- 4) Pre-millennial?
- 5) Post-millennial?
- 6) Ammillennial?
- 7) Popcorn eschatology?
- 8) Pan-millennial?
- 9) None of the above?
- 10) I have no clue and no interest?

Sentence Sermon: To live like Christ is to be part of a living organism

What is the Church? What is your place in the Church? What is the basis for the Church? How will the Church end?

The Confession of Peter – the Foundation of the Church

Location At the base of 9,232-foot high Mount Hermon

Lesson The rock upon which the church is built

Three choices:

1. Literal rock Peter died on?
2. Peter is the rock, the foundation (first Pope)?
3. The confession Peter made about Christ is the rock?

Three responses

1. _____ no
2. _____ possible, as seen in the Vatican entrance
3. _____ yes, the strongest in the Gk. text

Primary conclusion

The church is built upon *the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (Not Peter, the person).*

Secondary conclusion

Your place in church is like Peter: a pebble hewn from the Rock

Application

- 1) Christ is the **ROCK**
- | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | 1 Peter 2:4a | Christ is the | Rock |
| 2. | 1 Peter 2:4b | Christ is the | Living Rock |
| 3. | 1 Peter 2:6 | Christ is the | Cornerstone |
| 4. | 1 Peter 2:8 | Christ is the | Stumbling Rock |

One application of the *cornerstone* is that every measurement in the Christian life and for building the church must be taken from the datum, the cornerstone, Christ. Man-made measurements result in futile legalism.

One application of the *temple* is that it is a living organism

- 2) You are **PEBBLE** hewn from the Rock
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|----|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1 Peter 2:5a | You are a living <i>pebble</i> |
| 2. | 1 Peter 2:5b | You are part of a spiritual house |
| 3. | 1 Peter 2:6b | You are a secure in that holy place |
- One application for the non-Christian is Christ will ‘stumble’ them

The BIG question all humans face: what do you make of Christ? Is He a liar, lunatic or Lord? This phrase is taken from Mere Christianity, and is often called *Lewis’s Trilemma*, although earlier versions can be found from preachers like John Duncan (1796-1870). Lewis simply popularized it:

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.”

The Transfiguration of Christ – the Future of the Church

How did we get to this point? 2 Chron. 36:20-21 and Nehemiah 8:1-8

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| 1) | Matt. 17:1 | The observers: Peter, James, John |
| 2) | Matt. 17:2 | The transfiguration of Christ: “ <i>white as the sun</i> ” |
| 3) | Matt. 17:3 | The special appearances: Moses, Elijah. Jer. 18:18,
(representing the Law and the Prophets) |
| 4) | Matt. 17:4 | The response of Peter: Start Feast of Booths |
| 5) | Matt. 17:5a | The glory of God: revealed glory of Father too |
| 6) | Matt. 17:5b | The voice of God: one of three ‘approval’ voices |

Application

What is the significance and meaning of the Transfiguration?

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| 1) | It authenticated Jesus as the Messiah. Peter expands experience | | | | | | | |
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| 2) | It anticipated a future kingdom | Moses, Elijah from heaven | | | | | | |
| 3) | It proved Scripture to be true | not mere stories / myths | | | | | | |
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| 2. | 2 Peter 1:19-21 | God authored Scripture! | | | | | | |
| 4) | It is a pledge of life beyond | Moses and Elijah really exist | | | | | | |
| 5) | It is a glimpse of the “real” Christ (John 17:5) | full, unveiled glory | | | | | | |
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