

## Pt 2 Why We Are Baptist, Upon This Rock

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney 09-05-2018

### **Matthew 16:13-20**

- 13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, *Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*
- 14 And they said, *Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*
- 15 He saith unto them, *But whom say ye that I am?*
- 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*
- 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, *Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*
- 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.*
- 19 *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*
- 20 *Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.*

As we continue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of our series “Why We Are Baptist,” we want to look tonight more closely at where we believe Baptists began.

The booklet that we gave you, The Trail of Blood, is a classic booklet from Dr. J.M. Carroll. It has been used for years as a good resource for tracing the Baptist bloodline back to its origin. I have also uploaded a copy of it in .pdf form to our Church website at [www.hbcknox.org/pdf/trail.pdf](http://www.hbcknox.org/pdf/trail.pdf) and the chart timeline in the back to [www.hbcknox.org/pdf/trailtimeline.pdf](http://www.hbcknox.org/pdf/trailtimeline.pdf) as well.

There are several people who have come out against this little book, especially those of the Roman Catholic faith. They hate it and claim that we Baptist are foolish for believing any of it. And, of course you will have those that claim to be experts in Church history that also do not like this book because it doesn't line up with what they learned in their liberal seminaries.

But, that's okay, we aren't concerned with what the Catholics think or any of the self-appointed experts. What I do know is this little booklet was compiled from a series of Baptist history lectures given by Dr. Carroll and they have been used by Churches and study groups all over the world since the 1930's. I believe it be accurate or I would not have given it to you.

In the back of your book you will find a chart. This is a visual representation of the Trail of Blood that leads from present day, all the way back to the beginning with Jesus Christ and His disciples, which if you have been under my teaching and preaching for any amount of time you know I have always taught that this is where the Church began. We will talk more about the book later on so don't be reading it during tonight's message because I don't want you to get distracted.

Some people may ask “Why in the world is Pastor Byron teaching the history of Baptist? Shouldn't he just stick to preaching the Bible?” Well, the history of Baptist is the Bible. The reason I am teaching this series of messages on Why We Are

Baptist is because I believe if you ask the average person that belongs to a Baptist church, why they are Baptist, 9 out of 10 people wouldn't have a clue. I'd say you would be very hard pressed to find a Baptist lay member that actually knows the doctrine of the Baptist.

So, I want us to look back at our opening text in **Matthew 16:17-19**:

- 17 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*
- 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.*
- 19 *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

There are some very important things in these verses that you need to be aware of.

1. This is the first usage of the term “**church**” that you will find in your Bible.
  - a. The word church comes from the Greek word **ekklēsia** and it means: “**a called out assembly.**”

So, we find Jesus here describing what he refers to as **His Church**, he says “**I will build MY church.**” This means that the church belongs to Jesus Christ.

Keep your finger in Matthew 16 and turn with me over to the Book of Ephesians chapter five. Here we find the Apostle Paul teaching some great truths concerning Christ and the Church. He does it through teaching of the proper relationship between a husband and a wife:

### **Ephesians 5:22-33**

- 22 *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*
- 23 *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*
- 24 *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*
- 25 *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.*
- 28 *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*
- 29 *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*
- 30 *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*
- 31 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*
- 32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*
- 33 *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

In those passages we find several great truths, including:

1. Christ is the head of the Church.
2. He's the Savior of the Body of the Church.
3. The Church is subject unto Christ.
4. He sanctifies and cleanses the Church.
5. He nourishes and cherisheth the Church.
6. He is preparing the Church to be presented to himself as His Bride.
7. He gave his life for the Church.

Now, I don't know about you but I think the Church is pretty important to Jesus!

And so, going back to our opening text in **Matthew 16**, another important thing we need to notice is in verse **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.:**

2. As you may or may not know, the name **Peter** comes from the Greek word "**Petros**," and it means: "**A piece of a rock, or a small rock or stone.**"
  - a. But, when Jesus says "**and upon this ROCK I will build my church,**" that word "**rock**" as used right here comes from a different Greek word, "**Petra**," which means "**a mass of rock, or a large rock.**"

If you re-read that verse with that in mind it causes you to realize what Jesus is saying here. He's not stating that he is building the Church upon Peter, he is stating that he is building the Church **upon Himself**, or upon the faith that Peter exhibited in recognizing that He was the Christ. There is no doubt in my mind that when Jesus spoke these words to Peter that he pointed to himself or gestured toward himself when he said "**upon THIS rock I will build my church.**"

It is very important that you understand this because this makes all the difference in the world when it comes to the foundation of the Church.

You see, the Roman Catholics have the foundation of the Church built upon Peter. That is why they claim Peter is the first Pope. The name **Pope** comes from the Latin word **Papa**, which means "**Father**." That's why they call their Popes "Holy Father." They believe that their Popes are successors to the Apostle Peter.

3. Another great truth we find from verse 18 is the Church is eternally protected: **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**
  - a. If the Church was indeed built upon Peter, there would be no way it could be eternally protected. Peter was human flesh prone to sin and weakness. Peter himself denied Christ 3 times. Therefore; the only way the Church could be eternally secure is if it is built upon Jesus Christ Himself because he defeated death, hell, and the grave.

So, as Baptist, we can trace our roots directly back to the origin of the Church which is Jesus Christ and his disciples. This was the foundation of the Church.

Now, the question is, "**what about the name or word Baptist? Where do we find the Church being referred to as a Baptist church in the Bible?**" Short answer is, you won't find a church being called "Baptist" in the Bible. Just as you will not find the Catholic church, the Methodist church, Presbyterian church, Methodist church, Lutheran church, or any other denomination. However, we certainly can find the doctrine, faith, and practice of the Baptist Church in the Bible. As for the word "**Baptist**," of course we find that in **John the Baptist**.

Turn to **Matthew 3:1-3** In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

John was referred to as "**the Baptist**, or **the Baptizer**," because that is what he did. He baptized folks. The word Baptist comes from the word **Baptize** which means "**to fully submerge in water.**"

This is where the Baptist Church gets its name from, **those that practice baptism**. While baptizing believers isn't the only faith and practice of Baptist churches, that is certainly what set us apart from other faiths or denominations in the early beginnings of the Baptist faith.

So far, we have learned from Scripture that the beginning of the Baptist Church can certainly be traced back to Jesus Christ and his disciples. But let's look again at our opening text in **Matthew 16:19** **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

Again, the Church was not founded upon **the little rock, Peter**, it was founded upon **the BIG rock, Christ Jesus**. So, what does it mean when Jesus tells Peter that he will give him the **keys of the kingdom of heaven?**

Pay close attention here, I don't want anyone to be confused. Whenever you give someone a set of keys what does that mean? It means they now have the power to lock or unlock a door. If I gave you a set of keys to my house that means you have the authority to go to my house and unlock the door.

Jesus is entrusting Peter with keys. These are not physical keys but a spiritual keys. Jesus tells him it is the "**keys of the kingdom of heaven**." The kingdom of heaven is what Christ had been teaching about throughout his parables, it is both a spiritual and physical kingdom, it is the Kingdom in which he rules and reigns and will be physically reigning upon the throne of David when he returns in his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. The reason that Christ gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven was because of his confession in our opening text in verse **16** **And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** Peter got it. He fully understood Who Jesus was. He was the ideal candidate to trust with the keys to the kingdom.

We can see where Peter first uses these keys over in the **Book of Acts 2:14**, on the Day of Pentecost Peter addressed a large crowd of Jews and through the power of the Holy Spirit he begins preaching. He reveals to them the truth concerning Jesus Christ, and he clearly points out that He was the Messiah that they had been waiting for and they killed him, and he ends his message in verse 36:

**Acts 2:36-41** Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

**37** Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

**38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. (I can almost see Peter reaching into his robe and pulling out the key to the kingdom of Heaven and opening that Spiritual door)

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

And, there you have it. At that precise moment is when the Church of Jesus Christ was empowered. Peter was the instrument chosen to preach the message that would open the door to the kingdom of heaven for the Jew.

Then over in Acts chapter 10 we see Peter use the keys again to open it up for the Gentile as well. The man Cornelius sent for Peter to come because the Lord had come to him in a vision and told him to find Peter. Cornelius' men brought Peter back with them and starting in **Acts 10:34** Peter begins preaching the Gospel of the kingdom to them:

#### **Acts 10:34-43**

34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37 That word, *I* say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even to us*, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Peter delivered the Gospel message:

- God sent Jesus here to this earth to be the Savior of all men.
- He was slain and hanged on a tree (meaning his crucifixion).
- He was raised up on the third day (which was his resurrection)

#### **Acts 10:44-48**

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

It is obvious from reading this that the Gentiles listening believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and were saved. Peter realized this and immediately commanded that they all be baptized as an outward sign of their belief. This is what we call "**believers' baptism.**"

All of the doctrine that was in Peter's message to these Gentiles is the exact same doctrine that we as Baptist hold to this very day. I think it is pretty obvious that we as Baptists, can trace our heritage directly back to Jesus and his disciples.

When those Jews were saved on the Day of Pentecost, the Church of Jerusalem was established. You can essentially say that was the very first Baptist Church as they held the same faith and practice that we do, however; one thing that Dr. Carroll points out in **point #9** of his **10 Infallible Marks**, on **Page 9** of his book, is the lack of denominational names:

9. Mark well! That neither Christ nor His apostles, ever gave to His followers, what is known today as a denominational name, such as *Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal*, and so forth – unless the name given by Christ to John was intended for such, *The Baptist, John the Baptist*. (Matthew 11:11, and ten or twelve other times.) Christ called the individual follower *disciple*. Two or more were called *disciples*. The organization of disciples, whether at Jerusalem or Antioch or elsewhere, was called *Church*. If more than one of these separate organizations were referred to, they were called *Churches*. The word *Church* in the singular was never used when referring to more than one of these organizations. Nor even when referring to them all.

While you are looking in your books, please look at the chart in the back of the book. This chart indicates the **trail of blood** that traces our Baptist heritage. The red circles that you see on the chart indicate what Dr. Carroll classifies as Baptist churches, beginning with the Church at Jerusalem. They are colored red to indicate the martyred blood and persecution of Christ's believers.

The Persecution of what later became known as "**Christians**," beginning with the Church at Antioch, came from **Judaism and Paganism**, which was the **unbelieving Jews, and the Roman Government**, which later would be represented by the **Roman Catholic Church**.

One great truth that Dr. Carroll's book makes is the fact that Baptists are NOT Protestants. In case you do not know what the term "**Protestant**" means, let me give you a very quick history of where it came from.

You can say that Protestantism began in 1517 after German monk, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther wasn't intending on starting a new religion, he simply had 95 complaints against the Roman Catholic Church which he wanted to be addressed. His biggest complaint was over paid indulgences. Of course, his complaints were rejected by the Papacy and Luther was declared a heretic. However, many people agreed with Luther and wanted to **reform the Catholic Church**, thus kicking off what is known as **the Reformation**.

It was during the Reformation period that various religious groups who agreed with Martin Luther began **protesting** against the Roman Catholic Church. These groups

became known as **Protestants** because they were **Protesters**.

Religious leaders began springing out of Protestantism which would begin new religious denominations. You will recognize most of these:

- Martin Luther, of course – Lutheranism, around 1530
- John Calvin – accredited with founding Presbyterian church and known for what we now call, Calvinism
- John Knox – a student of Calvin, started Presbyterianism in Scotland
- King Henry VIII – started the Church of England to overthrow the Papacy because the Pope would not grant him a divorce from his wife.

Those that revolted from the Catholic Church and practiced re-baptizing believers, were referred to as Ana-Baptists.

- **Ana** = over again, or redo
- **Baptist** = one who baptizes, therefore Ana-Baptist or Re-Baptizers.
  - Some groups that sprang out of that were:
    - Mennonites
    - Amish
    - Congregationalists
    - Quakers

The name Anabaptist was a derogatory name given to those who believed only in the Baptism of believers. They strongly opposed the Baptism of babies which was the practice of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, whenever someone that had been baptized as a baby or a child actually became a Christian, the Anabaptist would re-baptize them – thus the nickname, Anabaptist.

Since the Roman Catholic Church was pretty much the law of the land, the act of “re-baptizing” anyone became against the law, therefore, anyone found out doing this was labeled a heretic and traitor and was sentenced to death. Millions upon millions of Ana-Baptists were murdered under this law.

If you notice in Dr. Carroll’s book, he references the **Ana-Baptists** a lot. In fact, in his **Trail of Blood chart** in the back, he has a direct line from Christians in Antioch, to the Ana-Baptists. Please be aware that they were not called Ana-Baptists until sometime in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century during the Reformation period, however, as Dr. Carroll argues, those that practiced the faith and doctrine of Ana-Baptist, has been around since Christianity began, so he refers to all of them as Ana-Baptist starting in the 300 AD’s, up until sometime in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century when the “**Ana**” part was dropped and only the name “**Baptist**” began being used.

History tells us that Charles the 5<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Emperor of Rome, referred to them as just “**Baptists**” as early as 1535.