



Rebuilding our Church Pt 2: Built upon Jesus and His Gospel!

July 12, 2020

Holy Text: Matthew 16:13-19

- Welcome again [Calvary Reformation Church!](#) 😊🙏🙏🙏🙏
- Thank you all SO much for your grace! What a wonderful response we've received as we, by God's grace, seek to Reset our "Brand" and Rebuild our Church! (We hope to be finished by Aug 1)
- But friends, if we are going to "build" or "rebuild," we better make sure we are building on the right foundation!
- Paul said,

1 Corinthians 3:1-11 (KJV) *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? 4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

- The Psalmists wrote:

Psalms 127:1 (KJV) *A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

Psalms 11:2-4 (KJV) *For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? 4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

- We were going to preach on Reaching the World, but given that we covered a lot of that heart in April (Reaching our Neighbors), seems more appropriate to continue our theme of *Rebuilding*.

Pt 2: Built upon Jesus and His Gospel

Pt 3: Built upon Love and the Power of God

Pt 4: Built upon Apostolic Instruction and an Eternal Perspective

- May we build upon the firm foundation! (Matt 7:24-27)

Built upon Jesus!

“Whom say ye that I am?” (v15)

1. Jesus is the **Son** of **God**! (John 3:16-18)
2. Jesus is **God** the **Son**! (John 1:1)

Jesus Christ our LORD is fully human and fully divine. Having taken on a human nature at the Incarnation, He is forever the God-Man, His perfect humanity being necessary to be our perfect High Priest; His divinity being necessary for His sacrifice to be sufficient for all mankind! Indeed...

- *1Jn 2:2 (KJV) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
3. Jesus is the **Word** of God!
 - *Joh 1:14 (KJV) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
 - *Rev 19:11-13 (KJV) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*
 4. Jesus is King of Kings and **Lord** of **Lords**!
 - *Rev 17:14 (KJV) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*
 - *Rev 19:14-16 (KJV) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*
 5. Jesus is the **Creator** of all things!
 - *Col 1:15-17 (KJV) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
 6. Jesus is the **Head** of the Church!

- *Col 1:18 (KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

7. Jesus is the **Savior** of the World!

- *1Jn 4:14-16 (KJV) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

There is nothing to truly fear! Not even death! Rejoice together and be free of worldly anxiety!

Away with depression! Cast off worry! Christ owns this planet! Jesus is the Savior of the World!

8. Jesus is **Risen!**

- *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Rev 1:18 (KJV)*

9. Jesus has all **power** and **authority!**

- *Mat 28:18-20 (KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Isa 9:6-7 (KJV)*

His power is bigger than our predicaments; His dominion is greater than our difficulties; His divine judgment greater than human judgments!

Make a list or discuss a few things you were worried about. Then compare those things to the above verses!

10. Jesus is the **Judge** of all men!

- *Joh 5:25 -29 (KJV) 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

“My Church!” (v18)

- As simple as this sounds, it is spiritually profound: **The Church belongs to Christ!**
- It was created by Him, bought and purchased by Him, and led ultimately by Him!

Acts 20:28 (KJV) *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

- He alone is its Chief Pastor and Bishop!

1 Peter 2:23-25 (KJV) *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: **24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. **25** For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

- What does this mean for us? It means:
 1. That we should conduct ourselves properly with and in something that belongs to another...His Church! We are stewards and must be found faithful! (1 Cor 4:2)
 2. That this “another” is not just a man; He is God!
 3. That fear and trembling (as well as love) should be the order of the day since Jesus holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden candlesticks. (1 Pet 1:17; Rev 1:20)

What is the Church?

- In Matthew 16:18 we read the first use of the Greek word *ekklēsia* in the NT, which is translated *church*. It literally means “a *calling out*, that is, (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): - assembly, church.” (Strong’s)
- **In our Text, we see both the nature of the church (called out, which includes separate, holy living apart from the world) and mission of the church (to advance on and push back the kingdom of darkness), which includes preaching the Gospel, making disciples, battling devils, and upholding and making great the Name of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God!**

“Upon this Rock?”

1. Verse 18 has been subject to lots of controversy for centuries.
2. Some say that Peter (Petros) is the rock (petra); others (including me) believe that Christ is the Rock upon which the church is built.
 - **1Co 10:4** *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*
 - **1Co 3:11** *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
3. Recently, I read of another view. Geographically, Christ was in Caesarea Philippi, which stood at the foot of Mount Hermon in the region of Bashan. To make a very long story short, this region was a center of the pagan worship of Baal (and later Pan), associated

with the realm of the dead (hades), and according to Scripture and Jewish tradition, was the place where fallen angels descended in their rebellion against God, took human wives, and produced the Nephilim (giants, Gen 6:1-4, Josh 12:4-5).

4. In this view, the first century Jewish mind would understand that Christ was, in effect, declaring open war on “the gates of hell” right on the devil’s doorstep! It would be like saying, “On this “rock” where Satan now rules, I’ll build my church!”

It’s also interesting that Jesus describes His Church in a “war, authority, and discipline” context:

1. Although I don’t hold to Peter being the “rock,” that doesn’t diminish the authority given. Peter (and thusly the Church through the apostles) was given “the keys to the kingdom of heaven.” At a minimum, this suggests the authority of opening and closing, allowing and disallowing, opening matters and settling matters.
2. In my view, the binding and loosing mentioned here refers to the *apostolic authority* Christ granted the Apostles to “to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jer 1:10); in other words, to oversee the church.
3. Although leaders following the apostles should be wary of assuming commensurate jurisdiction, *real* authority has in fact been given to those following apostolic doctrine in a duly formed and called out body of believers.
1. **Bottom line: there is true, divine authority granted to the LORD’s church and that authority is delegated to and humbly administered by its duly qualified leaders.**

Metaphors and Relevant Verses:

- Many metaphors are used in the NT to describe the LORD’s church:
 1. A Body (Christ’s) (Rom 12:5)
 2. A Building (1 Cor 3:9)
 3. An Army (because it has soldiers) (2 Tim 2:3-4)
 4. A House (of prayer) and God’s Household (Matt 21:13)
 5. A Spiritual House (1 Pet 2:5)
 6. A Kingdom of Kings and Priests (Rev 1:6)
- Ephesians 2:19-22 sums of much of NT theology concerning the church:

***Eph 2:19-22** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; **20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; **21** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*
- **Together we are citizens of God’s household (His family!) if we are following Christ and His apostles; we are to grow into a holy temple, together being indwelt by the Holy Spirit.**
- Is that how most churches are characterized...as “an holy temple” or “an army?” Sadly, we are more cruise ship than battleship!

A Holy Temple; A Holy Nation!

- Peter wrote:

1Pe 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

1Pe 2:9-11 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **10** *Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. **11** Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

A lively (or living) group of stones (which suggests stability and steadfastness); a spiritual (not carnal), holy house filled with priests designed to show forth God's praises to a lost world!

Built upon His Gospel!

- **1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV)** *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- **Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.**

Led by Qualified Men responsible for it

- **1Ti 3:1-13** *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **4** One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; **5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. **8** Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; **9** Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. **10** And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. **11** Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **12** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own*

houses well. **13** For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Assembling Together!

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Working definition of the Church

The (local) Church is a group of born-again, Spirit-filled, baptized believers in Jesus Christ who gather on the Lord's Day for biblical worship and who are committed to obeying Scripture and personal holiness. It is led by specific elders and deacons and, collectively, is passionate about covenant love one to another, advancing the Gospel, making disciples, and being a light in the midst of the culture.

As we Rebuild:

- Let us remember WHO the Church belongs to and what her Mission is.
- Let us be mindful that we are called to love one another as Christ demonstrated (next week).
- Let us be mindful that we are supposed to be "called out" and holy unto the LORD...

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (KJV) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, **18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 7:1 (KJV) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

In a day filled with so much deception, may we never be so concerning our LORD and His Church. Let us check our foundation and check it well. Then, peradventure the LORD might bless us indeed with abundant fruit.

2 Timothy 2:19 (KJV) Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Amen!