THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

Matt. 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this text we see Jesus promising to build His church.
2. He only promised to build ONE.
3. Every figure that refers to the church teaches its ONENESS:
   (1) ONE King -- ONE Kingdom -- Col. 1:13; John 18:36
   (2) ONE Husband -- ONE Bride -- II Cor. 11:2
   (3) ONE Shepherd -- ONE Fold or Flock -- John 10:16
   (4) ONE Head -- ONE Body -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
   (5) ONE Building -- ONE Foundation -- I Cor. 3: 9, 11
4. Jesus built His church on the first Pentecost after His resurrection, A.D. 33, in the city of Jerusalem.
   (1) Isaiah prophesied it would be established in Jerusalem in the Last Days -- Isa. 2: 2, 3
   (2) Peter in Acts 2:16 said this was now the Last Days.
   (3) Peter relating the conversion of Cornelius in Acts 11:15, said this was the beginning.
   (4) Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
5. Let us NOW notice some of the Characteristics of the Church Jesus built.

I. THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT IS PERPETUATED UPON THE EARTH BY A SEED

2. The church is in the SEED, just as the OAK is in the acorn.
3. SEED will bring forth after its kind -- Gal. 6: 7 - 8
4. We have the same SEED today that they had in the first century.
5. The SEED is alive -- Heb. 4:12; I Pet. 1: 23 - 25
6. The soil is the hearts of men -- Matt. 13:19
7. When the SEED is sown in the hearts of men today, and they obey it, the church comes into existence.

II. THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT IS A SPIRITUAL CHURCH

1. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" -- John 18:36
2. The church is ESTABLISHED by Spiritual means -- the Gospel -- Eph. 6:12; 6:17; II Cor. 10: 4 - 5; Mark 16:15 - 16
4. The church is NOURISHED with a spiritual food -- I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32
5. The WEAPONS of the church are spiritual -- II Cor. 10:4 - 5; Eph. 6: 12, 17
6. The MEMBERS BEAR spiritual fruit in their lives -- Gal. 5: 22 - 23; Gal. 6: 7 - 8; Matt. 7: 16 - 20
7. The GLORY of the church is expressed by the Spiritual -- I Pet. 3: 1 - 4; Tit. 2:10
8. God can only RECEIVE GLORY in the church, by its SPIRITUALITY:
   (1) Eph. 3:21
   (2) I Cor. 6:20
   (3) Matt. 5:16
   (4) I Pet. 4:16
9. The church's MISSION in the world is spiritual -- Luke 19: 10; Mark 16:15 - 16

III. THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT IS THE INSTRUMENT OF GOD IN SAVING THE WORLD
1. The church is: "The pillar and ground of the truth" --I Tim. 3:15
2. The church is the "fullness" of Christ -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
   (1) Every blessing God has provided for man in Christ is realized in the church -- Eph. 1: 13
3. The church performs its MISSION by:
   (1) Proclaiming the truth to the lost world -- I Tim. 3:15; Rom. 1:16 - 17; Mk. 16:15 - 16
   (2) Defending the truth against its enemies -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17
   (3) Supporting the truth with its money -- I Cor. 16: 1 -2; I Cor. 9:14
   (4) By giving the truth its moral support -- Tit. 2: 1 - 5
4. The church should show forth the praise or excellencies of God -- I Pet. 2:9
   (1) "Show forth" means literally -- "to proclaim; to publish abroad".
   (2) The church is to proclaim to the world the LOVE of God -- John 3:16
   (3) The church is to proclaim to the world the AUTHORITY of God -- Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1: 1 - 2
   (4) The church is to proclaim the SALVATION of God to the world -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12; Rom. 1:16
   (5) The church shows the goodness of God -- Rom. 2:4; 11:22
5. The church IS THE INSTRUMENT, not some other institution, to do this work.

IV. THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT IS MILITANT
1. The word, "MILITANT" means: "aggressively active" ;"engaged in warfare"; "fighting"
2. Paul teaches in Eph. 6 -- Christians must put on the whole armor of God so they will be prepared for the
   warfare they must engage in -- Eph. 6: 10 - 17
   (1) They were to stand and do battle and not retreat -- Eph. 6:11, 13,14
   (2) When the church is militant the Devil will retreat -- James 4:7; Matt. 4:11
3. Acts 17: 6 tells how militant the first century church was: "These that have turned the world up-side down
   are come hither also"
4. The church in the first century had great influence because of its Militant attitude:

(1) Toward God
   1. They declared there was one, and only one, true and living God -- I Cor. 8: 4 - 6; Acts 17: 22 - 31
(2) Toward Christ -- Acts 4: 12; I Cor. 2:2
(3) Toward the Gospel -- Gal. 1: 6 - 9
(4) Toward the Church -- Eph. 4:4; 1: 22 - 23; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47
(5) Toward Worship --John 4:24 -- Prayer, Giving, Lord's Supper, Singing, Teaching
(6) Toward living sincere dedicated lives to Christ -- Rom. 12: 1 - 2; Tit. 2: 11 -12; I John 2: 15 - 17

Donald Townsley

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