

Facts About The Church

Part One

Matthew 16:18-19

Introduction:

1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* (ἐκκλησία) which means, “those who are called out of” or “those who are summoned.”
2. A good way to learn the meaning of a biblical word or concept is to observe how it is used throughout Scripture.
3. Thus begins a study of some facts about the church that are learned by reading the New Testament.
4. The word “church” is first used in Matthew 16:18-19...

I. The Church Is Built by Christ

- A. Jesus said, “*I will build my church.*”
- B. This teaches us that the church is built by Christ.
 1. He is the architect of the church (Hebrews 3:3-4).
 2. He was prophesied to be the builder of the church (Zech. 6:12-13).
 3. Thus, the church is God’s building (1 Cor. 3:9).
- C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 1. A church built by man is the wrong church.
 2. A church that wears the name of man is the wrong church.

II. The Church Is Built upon Christ

- A. Jesus said, “*Upon this rock I will build my church.*”
- B. The “rock” Jesus mentions is the fact of His own divine nature.
 1. Peter had just confessed the deity of Jesus (vs. 16).
 2. This fact is the basis of salvation (John 8:24).
- C. Jesus is the foundation of the church!
 1. He was prophesied so to be (Isa. 28:16; Psalm 118:22-23).
 2. Jesus applied that prophecy to Himself (Matt. 21:42-44).
 3. The apostles taught it (Acts 4:11-12; Rom. 9:32-33; 1 Cor. 3:11; 1 Pet. 2:4-8).
- D. Some important implications of this teaching are...
 1. The church is not built upon Peter! {*He said so himself!*}
 2. A church built upon some other man is the wrong church.
 3. To be saved, one must accept the deity of Christ.

III. The Church Will Overcome Death

- A. Jesus said, “*The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”
- B. The word “hell” is actually the word *Hades* which refers to the unseen world of the dead – the grave.
- C. Death will not have victory over the church of Christ!

1. It could not keep Jesus from establishing His church, for He arose from the grave (Acts 2:24, 31; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 20)!
 2. It will not prevail against the members of His church for they, too, will be raised (1 Cor. 15:22-26, 53-57)!
 3. It is an eternal kingdom (Dan. 2:44; 7:14; Luke 1:33; Heb. 12:28)!
- D. Some important implications of this teaching are...
1. A church that is conquered by death is the wrong church.
 2. A church that has a dead founder is the wrong church.
- IV. The Church Is the Kingdom of Christ
- A. Jesus said, "*I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven*"
- B. Thus, the church and the kingdom are the same institution.
1. There were people in the kingdom of Christ in the first century (Col. 1:13; 4:11; 1 Thes. 2:12; 2 Thes. 1:5; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9).
 2. The kingdom came into existence with power on the day of Pentecost (Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Ac. 1:4-8; 2:1-4).
- C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
1. The kingdom is in existence today.
 2. Jesus did not fail in His mission to establish His kingdom.
 3. Jesus is now reigning as King of kings.
- V. The Church Is Guided by the Doctrine of Christ
- A. Jesus said, "*Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven...*"
- B. Literally, Jesus said, "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall have already been bound in heaven."
- C. Jesus doctrine would be revealed to and taught by His apostles.
1. This promise was not given to Peter alone (Matt. 18:18; John 20:23).
 2. The Holy Spirit would guide them in this work (John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13-15).
- D. By teaching the doctrine of Christ they were teaching the authoritative law for the church.
1. It is called the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11).
 2. It is called the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42).
 3. It is the law for Christ's church (Eph. 2:19-22).
- E. Some important implications of this teaching are...
1. A church guided by man's doctrine is the wrong church.
 2. A church not in submission to Christ's doctrine is the wrong church.

Conclusion: *Don't you want to be a part of the church described in the Bible? Aren't you blessed to know about the church that Jesus built?*