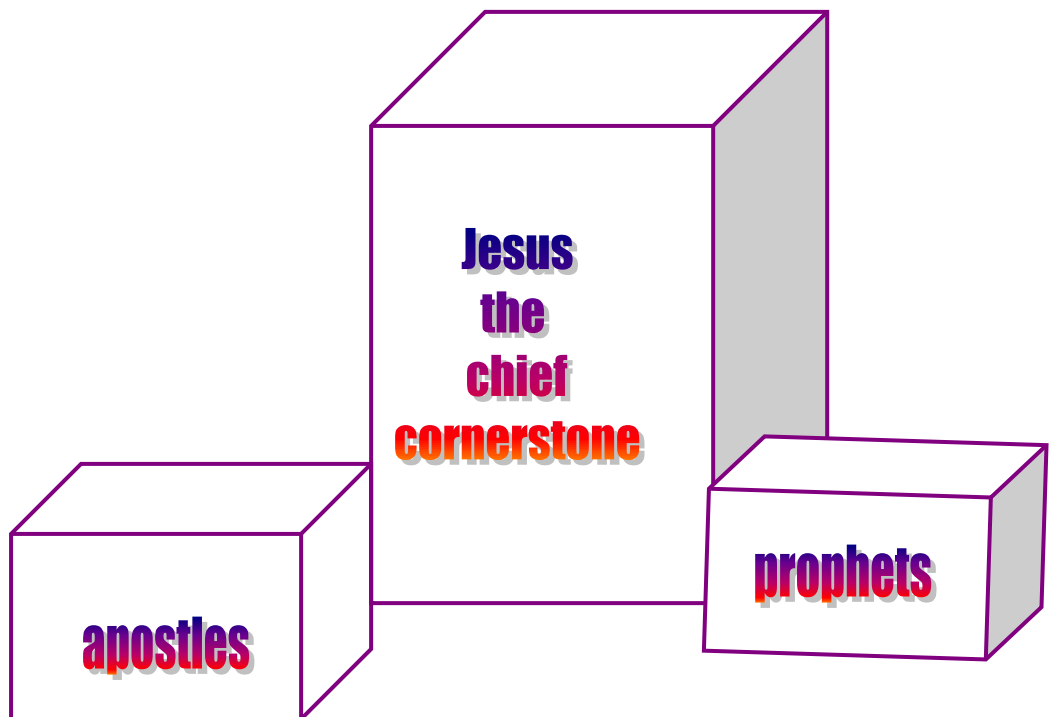


Jesus said:

"I will build
My church"

Matthew 16:18



A Scriptural Study of the Church of Jesus Christ

Jean Manning
REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

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Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Introduction.

To many people the church has been the familiar building where people gather on a Sunday to worship God.

In this study we will be looking at the Scriptures to see and understand what Jesus called His church, and how He established leadership in His church.

We will be examining the word of God to find those things that Jesus said would make up the church which is His many membered body.

We will be studying the pattern for the church that the Lord revealed to the apostle, Paul, and re-discover the church that was so relevant in the community in the first century after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will be seeking guidelines for the way the church is to mature to become “a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:27

Let us again discover the true church intended to become the bride of Christ – a church that has “made herself ready” for “the marriage of the Lamb.” Revelation 19:7

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Chapter 1.

JESUS WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH.

I will build My church.
Matthew 16:18
Jesus said:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” Hebrews 1:1-2

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

- Jesus is the builder

To understand what the church is we need to “consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus” (v.1), for “this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, in as much as He who built the house has more honour than the house”. (v.3)

- The church will be made up of believers and will be His possession

So we consider “Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” (v.6)

- THE CHURCH WILL BE BUILT UPON FAITH

Read Matthew 16:13-19.

Jesus was with His disciples and asked them:

Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? v.13

He heard their reply (v.14), then asked them:
But who do you say that I am? v.15

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Peter responded: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v.16).
Jesus blessed Peter and told the disciples that this answer was a revelation from God, His Father in heaven (v.17).
On this rock I will build My church v.18

Jesus said:

Peter had just declared that Jesus is the Son of the living God.
It is upon this foundation of faith in Jesus Christ which comes as a revelation from God the Father, that the church will be established.

Christianity is a revealed faith.

Throughout Scripture Jesus Christ is referred to as the rock.

Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect."

Psalms 95:1 "Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation."

1 Corinthians 10:4 "and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."

The apostle, Paul says:

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 3:11

**JESUS IS VERY CLEARLY STATING THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE
FOUNDED UPON FAITH IN HIMSELF AS THE SON OF THE LIVING
GOD.**

- THE CHURCH WILL BE MADE UP OF PEOPLE

Jesus was addressing Peter whose name means "a small rock".
Peter became the first of the building stones in the church that Jesus would build.

In his epistle, Peter writes to the believers:

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5a

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Clearly, the church is not a building. It is made up of people who are living and who fit together to make a place for God to dwell.

The word “church” in the Greek is “ekklesia” and means “the called out people or congregation”. [Strong’s Concordance 1577]

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

- Believers are “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (v.19)
- “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (v.20)
- “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (v.21)
- “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (v.22)

The people who have received a revelation from God that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God are called out of the carnal way of thinking of the world to be built together into a spiritual house.

The woman of Samaria was confused about where she should go to worship. Jesus explained to her that the place was not the important aspect of true worship.

Jesus said to her:

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23

The church is a spiritual entity. It is made up of people with faith in Jesus Christ.

Such people recognize the Scripture as the word of God and accept:

- that Jesus, who is the Word, speaks truth for He is “the way, the truth and the life.” (John 14:6)
- that God will love us and come and make His home with us when we love Jesus and obey His commands (John 14:23)
- that the church is the body of Christ and Jesus is the Head (Ephesians 1:22-23)

- THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILDS WILL HAVE AUTHORITY

Jesus said:

The gates of hades shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

JESUS IS DECLARING THAT THE FORCES OF EVIL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DESTROY WHAT HE IS ESTABLISHING.

The gates represent the authorities of Hades (hell).

Jesus said:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18

Jesus gave this authority to build to the men He trained, to His apostles, and sent them forth in His name to lay the foundation for His church.

.....the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets Ephesians 2:20

Jesus gave keys (also symbolic of authority) of the kingdom of heaven to Peter, the first of the building stones in His church.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven

He said:

Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven

Matthew 16:19

Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven

These keys opened doorways. “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.” (Revelation 3:7)

He was giving to His apostles the authority to free or to keep in captivity. We will see the outworking of this in Chapter 2. (Jesus Trains His Leaders) As an apostle of the Lamb, Peter used these keys to open the way into the kingdom for the Jews on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-39), and for the Gentiles in Cornelius’ house (Acts 10:34-43). On both occasions he laid foundations that put faith into the hearts of the hearers.

Later the apostle, Paul, was given revelation about the pattern of the church of Jesus Christ.

He said: “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.” (1 Corinthians 3:9-10)

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- THE BODY OF CHRIST IS CONNECTED TO THE HEAD

Jesus intends that His church on earth (His Body) would be linked with what is happening in heaven (with His Head), where Jesus reigns eternally. There is to be relationship between the body of people on earth and the Head (who is Christ) in heaven.

There was to be the same dominion (authority) given to the church that God had bestowed on Adam (Genesis 1:28) and the same connectedness between heaven and the church as there had been between Adam and God. (Genesis 1-3)

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18

All this would be because the church would be built upon a revelation of who Jesus is.

- Jesus would be the foundation of His church (the Rock)
- Jesus would be the head of His church (Ephesians 4:15)
- Jesus would have preeminence over His body which is the church (Colossians 1:18)

This revelation was to bring mankind back into proper relationship with God through the sacrifice of His Son.

Those who accepted the victory that Jesus won through His death and through His resurrection would separate themselves from the ways of the world to become the church of Jesus Christ.

These people would be connected as the body of Christ to Christ the head of His church.

There will be life in the church because these “called out people” will be living in obedience to the One who is life.

Jesus said:

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63

- Jesus is the builder, but He has given the keys and the plans to those He trained.
- The church is His possession. He “loved the church and gave Himself for her”. (Ephesians 5:25b)

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- The church is a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.
- The church is to have authority on earth.

Nowhere does Jesus speak of buildings when He talks of His church. He speaks of people who believe in Him, remain in relationship with Him and who obey Him.

The church is the called out people of God, known as the body of Christ and attached to Jesus who is the Head of His body.

The church of Jesus Christ walks in obedience to the truths of Scripture.

JESUS WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH.

HE HAS SHOWN THE WAY.

HE HAS SPOKEN THE TRUTH.

HE HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR THE CHURCH.

HE HAS ESTABLISHED LEADERSHIP IN HIS CHURCH.

Chapter 2.

JESUS TRAINS LEADERS FOR HIS CHURCH

“And He went up on the mountain

and called to Him those He Himself wanted.

And they came to Him.

Then He appointed 12,

- that they might be with Him
- and that He might send them out to preach,
- and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.” Mark 3:13-15

Luke tells us that Jesus “through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen.” Acts 1:2

- JESUS INSTRUCTS HIS CHOSEN ONES

A disciple is a learner. Jesus kept these men with Him to learn from Him. They were witness to the mighty workings of God through the life of Jesus.

Read Matthew 10:2

Matthew now calls the twelve disciples apostles.

It was to these apostles that Jesus gave special attention and instructions that they might lay foundations for His church.

He told them:

- what to preach. Matthew 10:7
- what to do v.8
- how to respond to the people where they went v.11-14
- what to say v.19-20
- how to persevere in face of persecutions v.21-23
- He expected full commitment from them v.37-39

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- JESUS ESTABLISHES APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP FOR HIS CHURCH

Jesus said:

He who receives you receives Me, and He who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
v.40

As the apostles were received, so the Lord would be received. The Lord would find a dwelling place in the church where His apostles are received.

This was a pattern He followed to establish the church of the New Testament.

The church “having been built on the foundation of the apostles” Ephesians 2:20

“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles...”
1 Corinthians 12:28

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles.....” Ephesians 4:11

These men who witnessed the prayer life of Jesus,

His working of His Father’s will

and His very life-style

were trained,

disciplined, and

sent forth by Jesus Himself

with His authority

and empowered by Him.

- JESUS TRAINS

(i) A team

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Throughout the gospels we read that the disciples “followed Him” as He went from place to place. (e.g. Mark 6:1)
Jesus had a team of people with Him wherever He went.

They were with Him when He healed the sick (Matthew 9:18-25), when He cast out demons (Matthew 8:28-34), when He raised the dead to life (John 11:1-34). And His chosen ones, His apostles were eye-witnesses to these things. These were the things He commissioned them to do.

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
Luke 9:1-2

When He sent them out, “He sent them two by two before His face into every city where He Himself was about to go.” (Luke 10:1)

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter exercised the authority Jesus had given Him (Matthew 16:19) and “standing up with the eleven, raised His voice and said to them.....” (Acts 2:14)

Peter was not alone; he was representing the whole apostolic team that Jesus had trained.

(ii) In prayer

His disciples saw His prayer life. (Mark 1:35)

He taught them how to pray (Matthew 6:5-13), showing that relationship with God the Father is the basis of all prayer.

He taught the priorities of prayer, the seeking first of God’s kingdom.

- Bringing glory to God
- Praying for God’s kingdom to come
- Praying for God’s will to be done on earth
- Asking for food from God, both spiritual and material.
- Seeking forgiveness and giving forgiveness
- Asking for guidance to resist temptation and for deliverance from the evil one
- Acknowledging the Kingship and power of the Lord

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

He warned that a prayer-less life leads to temptation

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41

He taught that to pray for labourers is of prime importance. (Matthew 9:37-38)

(iii) He gave them practical experience

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. v.11

Read John 6:5-11

(iv) He revealed mysteries to them

But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples. Mark 4:34

Jesus said to His disciples:

Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom, but to them it has not been given. Matthew 13:11

Later on, the apostle, Paul, speaks of mysteries that have been revealed to apostles who in turn bring this revelation to the church.

You may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. Ephesians 3:4-5

(v) Jesus gave authority to His followers

- to overcome evil

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm you. Luke 10:19

- to remit or to retain sins

Read Matthew 18:15-18

These are the same keys that Jesus gave to Peter when He first said: “I will build My church.” (Matthew 16:19)

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Jesus said:

Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Matthew 18:18

These keys give the apostles the right to release (loose) people from their sins, or to keep (bind) the unrepentant believer in his sin.

Read John 20:23 where Jesus gives this specific command about forgiving sins or retaining people in their sins.

- to build His church

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations

Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you

And lo, I am with you always

Jesus prayed to God, His Father, for these disciples that He had trained:

As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. John 17:18

He said there would be authority in agreement.

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19

(vi) Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city until you are endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49

Jesus had promised He would not leave the believers without help (John 14:18), and in Chapters 14-16 of John's gospel we read what He had taught about the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

(vii) Jesus commissioned His disciples to be apostles.

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection

He sends:

He empowers:

Receive the Holy Spirit. John 20:22

As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. John 20:21

He gives authority to forgive sin or to leave people in their sin:

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. John 20:23

IN HIS LIFETIME JESUS

- raised and trained a team
- gave His authority to them to establish His church
- exemplified a church that would be an expression of the kingdom of God on earth
- promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower them
- commissioned 12 men to be apostles to establish and lead His church

THROUGH THESE TWELVE “APOSTLES OF THE LAMB” (REVELATION 21:14) WHOM HE TRAINED, JESUS LAID A FOUNDATION FOR HIS CHURCH.

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Chapter 3.

THE DISCIPLES OBEY - THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH EMERGES

It is important to remember that those Jesus raised to build His church (i.e. His apostles) had only the teachings of the Old Testament and the training Jesus had given them.

- The gospels tell us what Jesus did and taught.
- The book of the Acts of the Apostles tells us what the apostles and believers did.

FOUNDATIONS HAVE BEEN LAID.

As Luke begins his record of the acts of the apostles and the emergence of the church, he gives a brief but comprehensive account of the foundations already in place for the building of the church.

Read Acts 1:1-11 as a reminder of the foundation on which the church is to grow

- Jesus' actions and teachings (v.1)
- Belief in His resurrection and ascension (v.2)
- He had chosen and trained apostles (v.2)
- They had proof that He was indeed risen from the dead (v.3)
- He had given them His commandments through the Holy Spirit (v.2)
- He had told them to wait for the empowering of the Holy Spirit (v.8)
- The Holy Spirit would enable them to be witnesses to Jesus – locally, then abroad, even “to the end of the earth”. (v. 8)
- Jesus would come again (v.11)

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

LEADERSHIP IS ESTABLISHED.

The story of the emerging church unfolds with the apostles and brethren in Acts 1:12-15

In unity

Waiting expectantly

In obedience

In prayer

+

+ +

+ +

A revelation from God that the apostle, Judas, who had betrayed Jesus must be replaced according to the Scriptures Acts 1:16-20

There were conditions for this to happen.

The one chosen had to be:

1. One who could testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 2:22

2. One who had been with Jesus from His baptism to His ascension.

Acts 1:21-22

+

The importance of apostolic leadership

When the twelfth apostle was in place

On the day of pentecost and

they were all in one accord

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME

THE BELIEVERS WERE EMPOWERED

- There was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind filling the whole house (v.2)

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- Tongues of fire sat upon each of them (v.3)
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit (v.4)
- They began to speak with other tongues (v.5)
- Devout men from every nation were amazed and perplexed (v.5)

The Promise of the Father (Luke 24:49) given by Jesus had come!

THE CHURCH IS BORN

Peter, “endued with power from on high”, stood “with the eleven” (Acts 2:14) and preached to fulfil the prophecy Jesus had given and three thousand souls were “loosed” into the kingdom of heaven that day.

These three thousand men asked:

What shall we do? Acts 2:37

Peter gave three directions (v.38)

Be baptised
Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
Repent

Now there are 3000 +
the 120 who were waiting together in prayer.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

Read Acts 2:42

- They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine
- They fellowshipped together
- They broke bread together
- They prayed

The apostles’ doctrine

The apostles were teaching and practising what Jesus had trained them to do. (v.43) Many signs and wonders.

Revelation is given to the apostles and prophets.

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery Which in other ages was not known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. Ephesians 3:3-5

Fellowship

“They had all things in common and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need”,

and

“ they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart”. (v.44-46)

“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” Acts 4:34-35

From Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, we understand that they also ate meals together. 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

The breaking of bread

Daily and in unity of heart, they broke bread together from house to house. (v.46)

Through this practice, there was an assurance that Jesus was being remembered daily. There must have been revelation of Jesus, the Christ, through the breaking of bread (Luke 24:30-31) since the Lord was adding to the church daily. (v.47)

Prayers

As we have already seen, unity and perseverance in prayer had led up to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts records many instances of a continuing of prayer fellowship e.g.:

- Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer. Acts 3:1
- After being released from prison, Peter and John went to the place where the believers were gathered to pray. Acts 4:23-31
- Decisions were made out of time spent in prayer. Acts 6:6
- The apostles set themselves apart, saying “we will give ourselves continually to prayer”. Acts 6:4
- Peter went to the house of Mary where “many were gathered together praying”. Acts 12:12

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- At Philippi, Paul and Timothy “went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made”. Acts 16:13

WHERE DID THE CHURCH MEET?

At first the believers “continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house”. Acts 2:46

(i) In the temple

- They continued the practices of Judaism and met in the temple to pray often in Solomon’s porch, and were invited to teach in the synagogues. (Acts 17:2, 18:4, 19:8)

Soon they were known as the Way, a sect of the Jews. (Acts 9:2, 24:14) Persecution led them out of the synagogues. There was no fixed building for their meetings.

(ii) From house to house

- However, right from the Day of Pentecost, at the beginning of the church, meetings were also held in the homes of the believers.

Prayer meetings were held in homes. Acts 12:12

They broke bread in their homes. Acts 2:46

Fellowship was in the home. Acts 16:40,21:8

Teaching was given from house to house. Acts 20:20

The Gentiles first heard the good news of Jesus Christ and received the Holy Spirit in the house of Cornelius.

Acts 10:24-48

The Philippian jailor believed in God with all his household. Acts 16:34

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him. Acts 28:31

Persecution led to dispersion

As the believers were regarded as a sect, they were persecuted and removed from the synagogue. Acts 22:4-5

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Many of Paul's greetings in his letters were addressed to the church that meets in the house, e.g. Romans 16:5,10,11,14,15; 1 Corinthians 16:19.

Nowhere is there a mention of a building specifically built as a church.

WHAT WERE THEY CALLED?

- At first there were only Jewish believers, known as the Way, a sect of the Jews.
- Then the word of God came to the Gentiles, and there was a Gentile church.
- In Antioch, Jews and Gentiles met together "and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch". Acts 11:26

THE BELIEVERS HAD FAVOUR IN THE COMMUNITY

There were wonders and signs. No one had needs – all shared.

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. Acts 2:44-45
Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Acts 2:43

This was a church (v.47)

Having favour with all the people

Praising God

and

NEW MINISTRIES ARISE

As new believers were baptized into the church of Jesus Christ, there was a need for more disciples to take responsibility for the care of these believers.

- Peter becomes the apostle to the Jews, and Paul to the Gentiles
- James leads the church in Jerusalem
- Timothy, Titus and Barnabas become apostles to set the church in order in cities and places beyond Jerusalem
- Stephen and Philip along with four other men become deacons to look after "tables"
- Many are raised to lead the church fellowships held in their homes
- Teachers arise. Jude, calling himself a bondservant of the Lord, brings teaching to the church
- Philip becomes a great evangelist, and his daughters are known as prophetesses

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- Agabus rises as a prophet along with others

THE CHURCH THAT JESUS HAD ESTABLISHED EMERGED

- led by the apostles Jesus had chosen,
and by those whom He appointed after He ascended
- meeting from house to house
- with a powerful prayer focus
- and a dedicated attention to teaching
- breaking of bread and fellowship were central to the gatherings
- with signs and miracles abounding
- finding favour in the community
- made up of Jew and Gentile
- known as Christians

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.” Mark 16:2

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Chapter 4.

THE CHURCH – THE BODY OF CHRIST

The book of Acts revealed what the apostles and believers did as the church emerged.

The epistles (or letters) to the churches and to the believers revealed the pattern of how to build and bring the church to maturity.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, gives us a picture of the church seated in Christ in heavenly places, maturing as it walks with the Lord and eventually able to stand in face of opposition.

In other epistles, Paul, Peter, James and Jude bring correction to the churches for wandering from the truth and for returning to religious and legalistic practices, as well as bringing instruction in the ways of righteousness.

In these letters Christ is given preeminence as the Head of the church and the church is portrayed as the body of Christ.

CHRIST – THE HEAD

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”
Ephesians 1:22-23

“the church is subject to Christ.” Ephesians 5:24

Christ
the
Head

Loved

gave Himself

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Sanctified

Cleansed
nourished

causes growth

presents to Himself a glorious church

- Growth comes from the head

The church is to “grow up in all things into Him who is the head
Christ

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
Ephesians 4:15-16

The church is to hold fast “to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grow with the increase that is from God.” Colossians 2:19

- Christ as the head has preeminence in His church

“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”
Colossians 1:18

- Christ loved and cleansed the church to set her apart to be holy

He “loved the church and gave Himself for her,
that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church.” Ephesians 5:25-27

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13-28

Paul gives a picture of the church functioning like a human body with every part having a vital role to play for the body to function properly.

It is one body

v:12 all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

v.13 We are all baptized into one body

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

The church has many members

v.14 For in fact the body is not one member but many

God has set the members in the body for a purpose

v.18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased

There are to be no divisions in the body of Christ

v.25 there should be no schism (division) in the body

The apostle, Paul, brings correction to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 1:11-13, reminding them that there are to be no divisions in the body of Christ.

Is Christ divided?

1 Corinthians 1:13

The result will be:

v.26 And if one member suffers, all the members will suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

We are individuals in the body of Christ

v.27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

The apostle, Paul, reminds the Corinthian church of the responsibility of every member to come to the fellowship prepared to contribute to the meeting.

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 1 Cor.14:26

God has set appointed roles in the church

v.28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

GOD'S ORDER IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

- According to the God-given appointments of 1 Corinthians 12:28

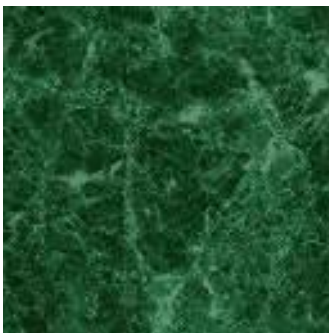
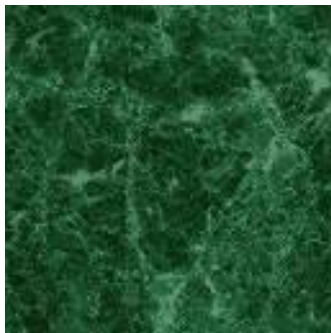
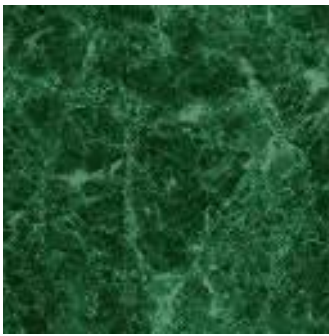
(i) apostles (ii) prophets (iii) teachers (iv) miracle workers
(v) helps (vi) administrations (vii) varieties of tongues

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- According to the appointments that the risen Lord Jesus Christ has given to His church. Ephesians 4:11

“He gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”

- According to the foundations laid by the Lord Jesus Himself.
Read Ephesians 2:19-22



Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH
- THE BELIEVERS MAKE UP THE CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST
- THE BODY OF CHRIST IS IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HEAD
- THE BODY IS LOVED, SANCTIFIED, CLEANSED FROM THE HEAD
- CHURCH GROWTH COMES FROM THE HEAD, JESUS CHRIST
- GOD MAKES APPOINTMENTS IN THE CHURCH
- EVERY BELIEVER IS A MEMBER INDIVIDUALLY IN CHRIST'S CHURCH, SET IN PLACE BY GOD

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Chapter 5

THE CHURCH – THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

In relationship with Christ

The apostle, Paul, gives a picture of the church in relationship with Christ, Himself, as a wife is in relationship with her husband.

He depicts Christ having the same loving care for His church as He would expect a husband to have towards his wife.

Jesus Christ – the Bridegroom

John, the Baptist refers to Jesus as the bridegroom. He says he “rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice”. John 3:29

Jesus acknowledges Himself as the bridegroom when John’s disciples challenge Him about fasting. He prophesies about His forthcoming death and departure. Matthew 9:15

The Church – the Bride

Read Ephesians 5:22-32

- The church is submitted to the Lord
- Christ is head of the church
- He is the Saviour of the body
- The church is subject to the Lord in everything
- Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her
- He sanctified the church and cleansed her by the washing of the word
- Christ did this to present to Himself a glorious church, holy and without blemish
- The Lord nourishes His body, the church

Bearing fruit

Paul reminds us in Romans 7:4 that the church has become dead to the law which he describes as the first husband of the Hebrew believers.

Once we die to law and live by grace in the new covenant given by Jesus Christ through the shedding of His blood, we become “married to another”.

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

Therefore, my brethren, you also become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead Romans 7:4

“That we should bear fruit to God.”

Paul uses this picture to remind the church that there is meant to be fruit in the life of the believers even as a marriage between a man and his wife produces fruit.

Not only will there be the fruit of new believers, there will also be the evidence of changed lives because of the relationship between the believing church and the Lord.

The bride is waiting expectantly for the coming of the bridegroom

Jesus warns the believers to be ready for His coming.

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:42

Jesus has left His promise that He will return for His own.

I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:3

Jesus teaches a parable of the ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom to come.

Read Matthew 25:1-13

These ten virgins are like the church awaiting the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- All were waiting; all went out to meet the bridegroom. v.1
- All had lamps – all had received the light of the knowledge of Christ. v.3
- Only some were prepared with extra oil – only some walked in the power of the Holy Spirit. v.3-4
- “But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.” v.5
- At midnight the cry went up that the bridegroom was coming. v.7

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

- The door was shut on those who were not prepared for His coming. v.10
- The bridegroom said: “I do not know you” to those who were not prepared, who were not walking in relationship with Him. v.12

The church as the bride of Christ is to be prepared for the Lord’s return.

- All have received the light of the knowledge of Christ
- All know that He is returning for His church
- Jesus expects these to be walking in relationship with Him

The bride is prepared and glorious

Read Revelation 21:2

John receives revelation of the bride of Christ as the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

- Coming down from heaven.

When we are born again, or from above, we enter this heavenly kingdom. Paul exhorts us in Colossians 3:2 to ”set your minds on things above, not on things of the earth.”

- Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

In his letters to the churches, Paul gives many instructions about what we are to “put off” (Colossians 3:8-11)

and what we are to “put on”(Colossians 3:12-14) that we might be prepared for the Lord.

Paul writes:

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2

Read Revelation 21:9-27

John is given further revelation of the bride of Christ.

Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife. v.9

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

THE LAMB'S WIFE

JOHN IS SHOWN THE GREAT CITY, THE HOLY JERUSALEM, DESCENDING OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD. V.10

- FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY AND OF THE LAMB v.11, 23
- FILLED WITH LIGHT v.11, 23
- THERE WERE ENTRY GATES AND THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL WERE ON THESE GATES.

v.12 God had established His covenant promises with the twelve tribes of Israel; the church is expected to walk in her inheritance.

- THERE WERE FOUNDATION STONES AND THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB WERE WRITTEN ON THEM.

v.14 The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. (Ephesians 2:20)

- THE GATES OF THE CITY ARE ALWAYS OPEN. v.25
- NOTHING THAT DEFILES CAN ENTER. v.27
- ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE CAN ENTER. v.27

THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, "COME!"

AND LET HIM WHO HEARS SAY, "COME!"

Revelation 22:17

HE WHO TESTIFIES TO THESE THINGS SAYS,
"SURELY I AM COMING QUICKLY."

AMEN.

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!

Revelation 22:20

Jesus said: I Will Build My Church

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"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan

