

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

Matthew 16:13-19

Introduction: Today, in our study I want us to examine this statement very carefully. Unfortunately, most people have failed to understand what Jesus meant when he said, "I will build my church." Let's examine his important words.

I. **"I will build"** (future).

A. Acts 2:47, "... And the Lord added to the church daily (present tense) such as should be saved."

1. Acts 2:36-42 -- v. 42 -- The Lord's supper was to be observed in the kingdom (church). See Matthew 26:29. Proves church was in existence.
2. The terms church and kingdom are used interchangeably in Matthew 16:18,19.
3. The word "keys" is very important in Matthew 16:19. See also Colossians 1:13 and John 18:36.

II. **"My church"** (It belongs to Christ). See Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 5:25.

A. Romans 16:16.

1. Not to John the Baptist.
2. Martin Luther.
3. John Wesley.
4. John Calvin or anyone else.

B. Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18.

III. **"Church"** (Singular -- There is only one). Over 1,000 religious groups in U.S. today.

A. Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:4; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:16.

B. I want you to think about these two ways the term church is used in the New Testament.

1. Universal (Matthew 16:18).
2. Local ("John to the seven churches which are in Asia" (Revelation 1:4); churches of Macedonia (Acts 16 & 17).

Conclusion: We must go back to the Bible and be the church built by Christ.

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