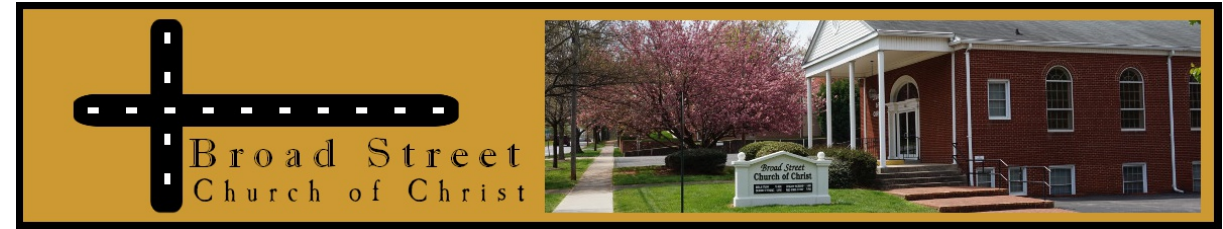


Broad Street Church of Christ
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 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



October 23, 2016

The Church and the Gates of Hades

Matthew 16:18 – And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Such an encouraging verse with a powerful, uplifting promise! And yet, due to translation error and false teachings this powerful passage is misunderstood by so many!

The common (DW part of this article was cut out) misunderstanding many have about this passage revolves around the mistaken notion that one church is just as good as another. This ecumenical mindset ignores several biblical points about the church:

When Jesus spoke of building his church in this passage, notice that he spoke of the church in a singular fashion, not as pluralistic. In other words, he said, "...I will build my church." He didn't say, "...I will build my churches."

This is because the New Testament reveals that there in fact is only one church. Paul spoke of the body of Christ as being his church (Eph. 1:22-23), and then specifically said that there is only one body, as well as only one faith (Eph. 4:4-5). If the body is the church, and there is one body, then there is one church. One church, one body, one faith. Compare that to the thousands of different denominations, sects, and cults which all believe different things while claiming to all follow Christ...even though Christ's New Testament specifically commands Christians that "...all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10; cf. John 17:20-23; Phil. 2:1-2).

Another misunderstanding many have about this passage revolves around the Roman Catholic doctrine of apostolic succession which teaches that Peter was the first Pope. This verse is commonly cited by Catholicism to mean that Jesus was saying that the church was built on Peter. However, this notion is mistaken for two reasons:

What must I do to be saved?
 Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Scripture Reading:	Joe Burriss
Song Leader:	Henry Rumble
Opening Prayer (A.M.):	Steve Short
Closing Prayer (A.M.):	Billy Ellenburg
Opening Prayer (P.M.):	Bobby Lankford
Closing Prayer (P.M.):	Bradley Speer
Nursery Attendant:	Joan Smith

Worship Times	
Sunday Bible Study	10:00 A.M.
Sunday A.M. Worship	10:55 A.M.
Sunday P.M. Worship	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Elders	
John Anderson	704.592.2266
Steve Short	704.872.5440
Tommy Smith	704.872.7966
Bradley Speer	704.876.6986
Preacher	
Dave Wood	704.380.4437

Building Lockup:	Guy Byrd
Announcements:	Guy Byrd
Door Greeters:	Guy and Carol Byrd
Count Contribution:	Harry Frye, John Anderson
Prepare Lord's Table:	Casandra Bills
Lord's Supper (A.M.):	Johnny Smith, Tommy Smith, Landon Speer, Bradley Speer
Lord's Supper (P.M.):	John Anderson

Peter could not have been the first Pope, because Peter was married (Matt. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 9:5) and Catholic doctrine teaches that the Pope and other bishops must be celibate, even though the New Testament specifically states that bishops must be married (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6). (With this in mind, compare Catholic doctrine to the prophecy of Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-3.) It is well known that “Peter” means “rock,” and so the assumption is made that when Jesus said, “...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...”, he was saying that the church would be built on Peter. However, a study of the Greek words used in Matthew 16:18 reveals that Jesus actually used two different words here. When he said, “...you are Peter...”, he used the masculine Greek word Petros, which refers to a rock or stone. However, when he then said, “...upon this rock...”, he used the feminine Greek word petra, which refers to a large rock or stone, or a cliff. The two similar but different words show by definition that Jesus had two similar but different concepts in mind when he spoke this sentence. The church would not be built upon the rock of the apostle Peter (Petros), but upon a large rock or cliff (petra). Contextually, the only thing Jesus could have in mind in reference to the petra would be the confession Peter had just made that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God (Matt. 16:16), which of course we know is the foundation of faith upon which the church is built (cf. 1 Cor. 3:11). Thus, today’s Scripture of the Day records a promise Jesus made to Peter, the other apostles, and us that gives me comfort every time I read it. He promised to build his church, of which there is only one, upon the rock of the confession of faith in him as the Son of God, and that his church would never die and thus be overcome by the gates of Hades.

Are you a part of his church? The Bible specifically states that he is the Savior of his church (Eph. 5:23). Do you want Christ to be your Savior? Be a part of his church, not some man-made denomination. Make the same heart-felt confession of faith that Peter made (Matt. 16:16; Rom. 10:9-10), choose to repent of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19), and wash your sins away via immersion into the body of Christ, his church (1 Cor. 12:13; cf. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
By: Jon Mitchell

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Frank Shepherd, Wanda Elam and Roy Baldwin.

- Lee Bumgarner, Cindi's husband, has a cancerous nodule on his lung.

- Dessie Conolly, Nealie Kilpatrick's sister, is at Iredell Hospital.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 23: Fourth Sunday evening singing. Don't forget that there will be a fellowship meal following evening services.

Nov. 5: Men's breakfast will meet at The RX at 8:30.

Nov. 6-9: Warners Chapel church of Christ will host a Gospel Meeting with Wesley Simmons. Meeting times Monday through Wednesday will be at 7 P.M.

Nov. 13-16: Abilene church of Christ will have Don Blackwell as their guest speaker; Eternal Answers to Modern Day Questions. Meeting times Monday - Wednesday 7 P.M.

Sermons:

A.M. - Thinking About Abortion - Gen. 1:26;

P.M. - Singing