

✚ Jesus is the Rock, the first and great foundation of the Church (1 Corinthians 3:11; See also 1 Peter 2:4-10).



✚ Nowhere in Scripture is it stated that Peter would be the supreme and infallible authority above all other disciples (Acts 15; Gal. 2:11).

✚ The Laying of the Foundation of the Local Church: <sup>7</sup>

✚ 1 Corinthians 3:5-14 – “As a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

✚ The Church is the product of God’s divine working: Born and Baptized of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 12:23; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

✚ The Universal Church Began to Grow Locally (Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 8:1-40; Titus 1:5).

**A Brief History of the  
Development & Growth of the  
Church Until Today**



✚ Early Church Fathers: Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, Tertullian, Athanasius, Eusebius, Didymus, Ambrose, Jerome, John Chrysostom, <sup>8</sup> Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, John Calvin, Martin Luther, John & Charles Wesley... to name a few.

✚ The Patristic Era: c. AD 100-451 (A period of persecution by the Roman Empire; The establishment of the Roman Catholic Church)

✚ The Middle Ages: c. AD 476-1517 (A period of formality and institutionalism; The Papacy; The secularization of the Church)

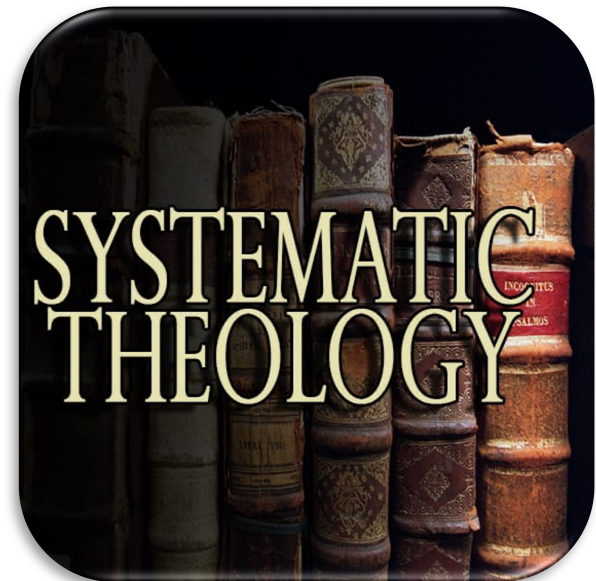
✚ The 16<sup>th</sup> Century: c. AD 1500-1599 (A period of the emergence of great reformers: Martin Luther, Huldreich Zwingli, John Calvin.)

✚ The Renaissance: c. AD 1400 - 1600 (A period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic “rebirth” following the Middle Ages.) <sup>9</sup>

THE **JOURNEY**  
Assembly of God

**MESSAGE GUIDE**

*Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer  
Sunday: January 21, 2024*



# Message Talk Sheet

Date: January 21, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

SERIES: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY  
FOR DAILY LIVING

"A Practical Look at the Study of God & Elements of Biblical & Spiritual Truth"

Today's Message:

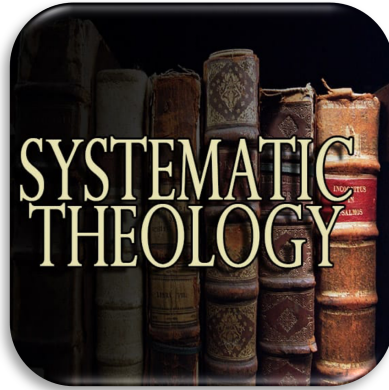
**ECCLESIOLOGY (Part 2)**

The Doctrine of the New Testament Church:

The Establishment of the Church

[Part B – "It's History: The Foundation & Historical Development of the Church"]

Scriptures: Matthew 16:13-20; 1 Corinthians 3:5-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10



## ***ECCLESIOLOGY ~ "The Doctrine of the New Testament Church"***

### **Rediscovering The Church**

- ✘ It is vitally important it is for us to reflect the values of Jesus and be about the mission of Christ as the Church.



### **The Foundation of the New Testament Church**

- ✘ Review:

↳ The founding of the Church ~ it's origin = The Day of Pentecost!

↳ Jesus spent quality time explaining to the Disciples about the foundation of the Church.

- ✘ Today's Focus: What did Jesus teach about the Foundation of the Church and how can we compare this to the historical account of the Church to gauge where we are today as the Church.

- ✘ Scriptures: Matthew 16:13-20 ~ Jesus' teaching on the foundation of the Church. [See Also Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21]

↳ Jesus ~ "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? ... But who **do you** say that I am?"

↳ Simon Peter ~ "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

↳ Jesus ~ "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not **revealed** this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are **Peter [petros]**, and on this **rock [petra]** **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

- ✘ The Foundation: <sup>1</sup>

↳ The Church is the Lord's: He called it "My Church".

↳ The Church was purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

↳ The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ – He is "the cornerstone" of the Church (Ephesians 2:20; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:12-20; 2:5, 16).

- ✘ Varying Views: On who or what "this" rock is (Matthew 16:18). <sup>2</sup>

↳ View #1 – Some hold that it refers to Peter.

↳ View #2 – Some suggest that it refers to the Apostles.

↳ View #3 – Others feel that it refers to Christ Himself.

↳ View #4 – There are others who refer it to Peter's Confession.

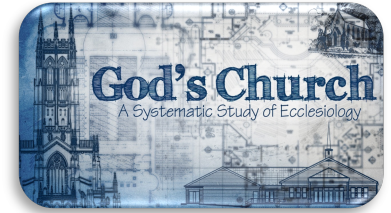
↳ Henry Thiessen: "Whatever position one might take on this debated subject, **three things are clear**: Christ is building his church, He is using human instruments, and these human instruments must confess to the deity of Jesus Christ." <sup>3</sup>

- ✘ Pastor Mark's Take: A Combination of View #3 and #4. <sup>4</sup>

↳ John 1:40-42 – Jesus changes Simon's name: **Cephas** (a stone).

↳ Matthew 16:18 – Jesus calls Simon "Peter": **Petros** (a stone, pebble).

↳ But then says: "Upon this rock: **Petra** (massive solid bedrock; boulder) I will build My church. <sup>5 6</sup>



✘ The Post-Reformation: c. AD 1517 – Present (A period of varied applications of NT Christianity by individuals and organizations.)

↳ The Era of Rationalism: c. AD 1600 – 1799 (A period of intellectual and philosophical movements that prepared the stage for many of the liberal and sometimes antispiritual teachings of the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.)

↳ Spiritual Movements: c. AD 1600 – 1999 (A co-existing period of movements reacting to the stifling and liberalizing tendencies of Rationalism that have once more **yearned for and received a genuine experience with God**: The Pietist movement [17<sup>th</sup> Century], The Moravian & Methodist movements [18<sup>th</sup> Century], The Great Awakenings, Holiness movement, and the **Pentecostal movement** [18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries]).<sup>10</sup>

***The Church Founded by Jesus Christ Is ALIVE & WELL,  
And Shall Continue To Progress Until He Comes!***

“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”



<sup>1</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., Revised by Vernon D. Doerksen, *Lectures in Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1949 – Revised in 1979, Reprinted February 1989), 315.

<sup>2</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., 315.

<sup>3</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., 315-316.

<sup>4</sup> Stamps, Donald C., and others, eds, *The Full Life Study Bible – King James Version* (Grand Rapids, MO: Life Publishers International, 1992), 1437.

<sup>5</sup> Dusing, Michael L., and others, eds, *Systematic Theology* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 537.

<sup>6</sup> Thiessen, Henry C., 316.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Wei, Lien-yueh, PhD (in Patristics), New College, University of Edinburgh *List of Church Fathers, Representative Works, and Brief Introduction* (Aug/2008) [https://christ.org.tw/patristics/list\\_of\\_church\\_fathers\\_\(by\\_name\).htm](https://christ.org.tw/patristics/list_of_church_fathers_(by_name).htm) (Accessed 01-17-2024)

<sup>9</sup> History.Com Editors, *Renaissance*, Online Resource: <https://www.history.com/topics/renaissance/renaissance> (Updated August 11, 2023; Original Posting – April 4, 2018; Accessed January 20, 2024).

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