

A Reason for Confidence

Pastor's Bible Study, May 23, 2018

Matthew 16:18, Jesus, speaking to Simon Peter and the others in response to Peter's answer to the question of Jesus, "Who do you say that I am?," said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in Heaven."

That statement is timeless, unequivocal, intentional, universal. We are not left to wonder about the intention of Jesus Christ and His church. If there were not some answer to the question "how?" however, we would see ourselves as relegated to spectators rather than participants. The challenge is to not only participate, but to remember His commitment.

Scripture gives six descriptives that together offer a window into the mind of Christ concerning the church.

I. **From where does the congregation come?**

- A. Acts 2:41, 47
- B. Acts 4:4
- C. Acts 5:14

II. **From where does leadership come?** Acts 4:10--16

- A. Position v10,11
- B. Task v12
- C. Goal v13
- D. Result v14-16

III. **What is the source of the energy of the church?** The Holy Spirit, Jh 16:7-15

- A. Supplying conviction of sin, righteousness and judgement;
- B. Guiding into all truth, 16:13
- C. Anointing with power, Acts 1:8
- D. Equipping, i.e., energizing with gifts of ministry Eph 4, Romans 12, 1 Cor. 12:4-11;

IV. **What is the model of the ministry of the church, the program?** Luke 4:18, Is

61; Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed Me to

preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (Is.60 and 61 give the context for understanding)

- A. **Preach gospel** (to all, including the poor)
- B. **Free people** and proclaim their release; (From what?)
- C. **Open eyes**, give spiritual (and physical) sight to the blind;
- D. **Help** the disadvantaged;
- E. **Announce** God’s timing;

V. **What is the functional, judicial authority of the church?** Matt. 16:16-19

- A. What do the “keys” imply?
- B. Isaiah 22:19-23 mentions “Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah;” 2 Kings 18:18 gives the story; how do they relate to this?
- C. Prophecy
 - 1. Rev. 1:18, identity of Jesus; was dead and is alive and has the keys of death and hell;
 - 2. Rev. 3:7, Jesus possessing the key of David, the determination of opportunity;
 - 3. Rev. 9:1, the key of the bottomless pit, opening the pit to release the creatures of evil and judgment there to torment the earth;
 - 4. Rev. 20:1 the angel from heaven with the key to the abyss to open it to cast Satan into it for 1000 years, afterward to be released for a short time;

VI. **What are the metaphors (or more) used by Paul to picture the church?**

- A. The Church, Eph 1:22, the “called out” ones, the assembly;
- B. The body of Christ, 1:23, (3:6) The “body” is the beneficiary of all that has been said of Christ in the previous verses!
- C. Citizens (as opposed to strangers) with the saints; Eph 2:19 (v12)
- D. God’s household, Eph 2:19
- E. God’s building, v21 (closer than citizens!)
- F. God’s temple, sanctuary, Eph 2:20-22
- G. God’s dwelling place, Eph. 2:22
- H. God’s family, Eph 5,6
- I. God’s army, Eph 6:10-17