

Lecture Notes: The Unstoppable Church

Introduction

- Emphasizes homecoming: celebrating the past and dreaming for the future.
- Contrasts views on church's relevance: some believe its best days are over, others see great potential.
- Speaker believes the church's best days are ahead, full of hope and potential through Christ.

Main Message

- **Title:** The Unstoppable Church
- Church is not just a building or institution, but a living body of believers.
- Anchored in history, poised for a limitless future.

Key Points

1. Church is Unstoppable Because of Its Founder

- **Scriptural Reference:** Matthew 16:13–20
 - Jesus asks disciples, "Who do you say I am?"
 - Peter declares Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God."
 - Jesus affirms Peter, noting this revelation comes from God.
- **Significance:**
 - Jesus as the founder means the church is based on divine truth and revelation.
 - Belief in Jesus as the Messiah is a supernatural confession.

2. Church is Unstoppable Because of Its Promise

- **Scriptural Basis:** Matthew 16:18
 - Jesus says, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- **Explanation:**

- Gates symbolize defense, not offense.
- The church is on the offensive against the gates of hell.
- The promise ensures the gospel's victory over evil.
- **Implication:**
 - Stay focused on the gospel as the true transformative force in the world.

3. Church is Unstoppable Because of Its Mission

- **Mandate:** Keys to the kingdom given to Peter and the church.
 - Represents authority to share the gospel.
- **Mission:** The church is the manifestation of God's kingdom on earth.
- **Role of Believers:**
 - Called to be stewards of the gospel.
 - Engage in the mission, not just church "chores."
 - Be outward focused, bringing the gospel to the world.

Conclusion

- **Challenges:**
 - Avoid being consumed by church maintenance (chores) over mission (work).
- **Exhortation:**
 - Celebrate the past but stay focused on the mission.
 - Be engaged in spreading the gospel, regardless of personal circumstances.
- **Prayer and Call to Action:**
 - Encourages prayer for leadership and continued focus on mission.
 - Call for personal engagement in mission, taking next steps in faith.
- **Closing:**
 - Focus on being the church in the world, transforming lives through the gospel.