

Sermon Reflections

The Church that Christ Built (Matthew 16:13-20) Part 1

Summary: Christ builds His church on Himself – around a true confession of faith in Him. Confess Christ, join the church, and help us stay built on Christ, true to our confession.

Four Defining Marks of Christ's True Church (Part 1)

1. We Confess Christ in the World (vv. 13-16)

- What is significant about Jesus drawing out this confession in Caesarea Philippi? What did the disciples say was the popular opinion of who Jesus was (v. 14)? What was good about their conclusions, and what did their conclusions discount, or preclude?
- Jesus got personal with His question: “But who do you say that I am?” What is the import of the answer Peter gave, or that you would give to that question? Also, how does your declaration of your answer affect your relationships and interactions with others?
- Peter answers boldly, and correctly! What is the meaning and significance of the word “Christ”? How does Psalm 2:2, “his Anointed” help to understand this significance? What is the importance of Psalm 2:8 “the nations... and ends of the earth” as relates to Peter’s word “Christ”?
- If you confess Him as Christ, what changes does that bring in your life, attitude, pride, your posture before Him etc.? Is your confession just words, or an expression of the heart? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Peter calls Him “the Son of the living God.” (v. 16) What truth is implicit in that declaration and what is its impact on our beliefs? In 1 Timothy 3:15-16, what relevant truths do we find there about the deity of Jesus?
- So, what if someone does not have this confession? Aren’t we allowed to have our opinions?

2. We are Converted by the Father (v. 17)

- Jesus confirms Peter’s answer by saying he is “blessed,” and clarifies further that Peter’s understanding is a gift, a revelation from God the Father. Do we need to know facts about the gospel in order to be saved? What else do we need, or need to do? If conversion is of God, what action do we take? In John Chapter 6 there is a contrast between verses 36 and 37. Meditate on that contrast. Are we not all equally depraved? What is the difference in those who believe and those who do not? Reference was also made to 2 Corinthians 4:6.
- Consider the implications of the message. How can we be bold with the truth while knowing that the Spirit must work in the heart? (2 Corinthians 5:11-20) Surely there are some people in your life that you would like to know the gospel. Name them. What would you say to them? Perhaps you can write out some questions you can use to start the conversation. Perhaps you can use the tract “Do you Know God?”
- Our calling is to faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2), not results. How is this encouraging to you? Do you see your so called enemies as enemies, or a mission field? (Matthew 5:43-45). How does John 10:27-30 humble you or encourage and embolden you?