

"How May I Be Sure That I Am A Member
Of The Church That Jesus Built." Mat. 16:18.

Matthew 16:18;

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1-The figure portrayed by the 18th and 19th verses:

1-A Builder, which is Christ.

2-A temple to be built, composed of lively stones, the church.

3-A foundation of that temple, the rock.

4-The gates of an unfriendly city or power which shall seek its destruction—Hades or the unseen abode of the dead, the grave.

5-A door-keeper of the church—Peter with his keys.

1-Peter, on Pentecost, first opened the door of the church and declared the conditions on which men could have their sins forgiven.

2-Seven years later at Caesarea:

Peter declared the same conditions to the gentiles.

6-While Peter took the lead in this great work the keys were given to all of the apostles, and to no other mortal.

1-Matthew 18:18; Speaking to the Apostles Jesus said,

"Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

2-The religion of Christ is not a mystical or mysterious religion.

2-Peter 1:10;

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

2-Timothy 1:12;

For the which cause I suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: For I know whom I have believed, for I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against the day.

John 6:45;

Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

1-So the religion of Christ:

1-Is something that we can learn.

2-Is something that we can understand.

3-Is something that we can do.

3-How do we learn of the religion of Christ?

Romans 10:17;

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1-Our faith in all things is determined by what we hear and believe.

2-Cor. 5:7;

For we walk by faith, and not by sight.

1-We may be sure that we are walking by faith when we do the will of God according to his word.

4-As employed by the New Testament, the word church signifies the body of Christ which is composed of all those who have been saved from their past sins-AND NO OTHERS.

5-Concerning the church, these facts are clearly set forth in the New Testament:

1-The church was built by Christ through the agency of his apostles.

1-Matthew 16:18.

2-Acts 2nd chapter.

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2-It is his church because he built it and because he purchased it with his blood.

Acts 20:28;

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

3-The church of which we read in the New Testament is the body of Christ.

Ephesians 1:21-23;

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that also which is to come:22-

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23;

Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

4-Since the church of the New Testament is the body of Christ then Christ, and no other, is the head over his body.

Colossians 1:18;

And he, Christ, is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have preeminence.

1-Who has the preeminence when the church is named after some man?

5-The church of the New Testament, the body of Christ, is composed of those who are sanctified in Christ, called to be saints.

1-Corinthians 1:2

The sanctified in Christ are those, who by their obedience to the gospel, have been set apart from the world and consecrated to God.

1-The humblest is a saint as well as Peter and Paul.

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6-In the second chapter of Acts we have an account of the establishment of the church.

Acts 2:1-4;

1-All the apostles were filled with the Holy S.

2-Jews were gathered in Jerusalem from all nations to observe Pentecost.

3-Peter preached for the first time the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4-By Peter's words the Jews believed and cried out,

7"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

1-Peter said unto them,

"Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit****They then that gladly received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls*****And the Lord added to the church day by day those that were saved.

8-If:

1-Hearing the gospel, believing, repenting;

2-And being baptized in the name of Christ;

3-Brought about remission of sins and caused one to be added to the Church in New Testaments times;

4-It will have the same result today.

9-Will you do that now:

1-And be added, by the Lord, to the church which is his body?