I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH - Matthew 16:18

Intro:

A. The context of this setting:
   1. Caesarea Philippi ---- Situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and at the base of Mt. Hermon, Caesarea Philippi is the location of one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River. This abundant water supply has made the area very fertile and attractive for religious worship. Numerous temples were built at this city in the Hellenistic and Roman periods.
   2. In this setting Christ made these statements:
      a. Matthew 16:13-20 (NKJV) ---- When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

B. From this text there are a few things which we need to note:
   1. The Foundation of It -“Upon This Rock” -
   2. The Certainty of It -“I Will Build”
   3. The Ownership, Intimacy & Singularity of It -“My Church”
   4. The Invincibility Of It -“The Gates of Hades Shall Not Prevail Against It” -
   5. Its Standard of Authority - “The Keys of The Kingdom” –
      a. (From Why I am a member) - Bible as the ONLY Authority
      b. Message it Preaches
      c. Worship
      d. And Work

II. UPON THIS ROCK ---- 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

A. Jesus Is The Foundation of His Church – [Not Peter - Π?τρος – Petros – But π?τρα – petra] - (1 Cor. 3:11) - 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
   1. Based Upon Who Jesus Is – (Acts 8:37; Col. 1:15-18)
      a. Acts 8:37 ---- 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
      b. Colossians 1:15-18 ---- 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
   2. Not Just His Person – But Also His Words – (Mat 7:24,25; Heb 1:1,2; Eph 2:20; 4:4-6; 11-16)
      a. Matthew 7:24-25 ---- 24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:25 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
      b. Hebrews 1:1-2 ---- God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of
all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
c. **Ephesians 2:20** ---- 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
d. **Ephesians 4:4-6** ---- 4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.
e. **Ephesians 4:11-16** ---- 11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

B. **Matthew 7:26** (NKJV) ---- 26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

1. Jesus Is NOT The Foundation of Other Churches . . .
   a. They Are Based On The Doctrines & Commandments of Men
   b. Or The Lust of The Flesh –
   c. Any Church Built On Anything Other Than The True Gospel of Jesus Christ Is Not Built On Him!

2. The Foundation of It!
   a. Chart # 1
   b. Chart # 2
   c. What Are Denominations?
(1) Divided By Distinction In Belief
   (a) Bound together by distinct beliefs
   (b) Earthly Headquarters
   (c) Has Earthly Human Names.

III. The Certainty of It ---- “I will Build”
   A. Jesus came for this very purpose – *(Daniel 2:44; Mark 9:1; Eph 3:9,10)*
      1. **Daniel 2:44** ---- 44 “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
d He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

b. Ephesians 3:9-10 ---- 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

2. Began On The First Pentecost After His Death, Burial & Resurrection – (Acts 2:47)
a. Acts 2:47 ---- 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

3. Jesus Is Still Building His Church – (1 Peter 2:5; Mark 16:15)
a. 1 Peter 2:5 ---- 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
b. Mark 16:15 ---- 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

B. Matthew 15:13 (NKJV) ---- 13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.
1. Jesus Is NOT The Builder of Other Churches . . .
   a. Men build their own churches upon their own foundations . . .
   b. Men use their own wisdom, schemes, tactics and drawing power to build their churches . . . NOT the true gospel . . .

IV. The Ownership, Intimacy & Singularity of It ---- “My Church”
A. He Purchased It – (Acts 28:20, Eph. 5:25)
1. Acts 28:20 ---- 20 “For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.”
2. Ephesians 5:25 ---- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

B. He Adds The Saved To It - (Acts 2:47; 1 Peter 2:5)
1. Acts 2:47 ---- 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
2. 1 Peter 2:5 ---- 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

C. He Is The Head of It – (Eph. 5:23,24; Col. 1:18)
1. Ephesians 5:23-24 ---- 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
2. Colossians 1:18 ---- 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

D. He Cherishes It – (Eph. 5:25,29,30)
1. Ephesians 5:25,29-30 ---- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

E. He Only Has One – (Eph. 4:4)
1. Ephesians 4:4 ---- 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

V. The Invincibility Of It ---- “The Gates of Hades Shall Not Prevail Against It”
A. Death Would Not Prevent Jesus From Fulfilling His Promise To Build His Church –(Matt 16:21-25)
1. Matthew 16:21-25 ---- 21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

B. Death Will Not Be Victorious Over The Church - (Acts 7:59,60; 8:1-4; 1 Cor 15:55; Rom. 8:33-39; Rev 2:10)

1. Acts 7:59-60 ---- 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

2. Acts 8:1-4 ---- Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

3. 1 Corinthians 15:55 ---- 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

4. Romans 8:33-39 ---- 33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Revelation 2:10 ----- 10 “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

C. The Church Has Been Delivered From The Fear of Death – (Heb 2:14,15; Rev 1:17,18)

1. Hebrews 2:14-15 ---- 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2. Revelation 1:17-18 ---- 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

VI. Its Standard of Authority ---- “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”

A. A key is an instrument for opening a door. He that is in possession of it has the power of access, and has a general care and administration of a house. Hence, in the Bible, a key is used as a symbol of superintendence, an emblem of power and authority. See Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 1:18, 3:7. The kingdom of heaven here means, doubtless, the church on earth, Matthew 3:2. When he says, therefore, he will give him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he means that he will make him the instrument of opening the door of faith to the world-the first to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. This
was done, Acts 2:14-36, 10:1. —Barnes' Notes on the New Testament

B. Keys Represent Authority – The Power To Open, Close & Administrate – (Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 1:18, 3:7)
1. Isaiah 22:22 ---- 22 The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.
2. Revelation 1:18 ---- 18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
3. Revelation 3:7 ---- 7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:"

1. Matthew 18:2,18 ---- 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
2. John 20:23 ---- 23 “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”
3. John 16:13 ---- 13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
4. Matthew 28:18 ---- 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
5. Acts 2:38,42 ---- 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
a. Vrs 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
6. Acts 15:7 ---- 7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

D. Think about seeds and fruit?
1. Corn, Apple and Acorn
2. Same is true with seeds of religion.

VII. (From Why I am A Member) - The church of Christ Standard is different from others.
A. Human Denominations Do Not Use “JUST” The Bible – (Confessions, Disciplines, Rules of Faith, Party Statements, etc.)
B. The Lord’s Church Uses ONLY The Bible As Its Guide In Faith, Teaching, Work, Worship & Organization. (2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Pet 4:16; Col 3:17)
1. 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ---- 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
a. 2 Timothy 3:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
b. 1 Peter 4:16 (NKJV) ---- 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.
c. Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
2. No Head but Christ
3. No organization larger than the local congregation
4. No faith except that which is found in the N.T.
C. Which brings us to the next point - and that is the message that it preaches!

VIII. Since the Bible is the ONLY BOOK USED - the Message it Preaches comes from it Alone
A. What A Person Must Do In Order To Be Saved In The Words of Inspired Men – (1 Peter 4:11) 1 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1. The Alien Sinner - (John 8:24; Romans 10:9,10; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; 10:47; 22:16; Ro 6:3-6; 1 Pet 3:21)
   a. BELIEF
      (1) John 8:24 (NKJV) ---- 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
      (2) Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ---- 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
      (3) Romans 10:10 (NKJV) ---- 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
   b. REPENT
      (1) Luke 13:3 (NKJV) ---- 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
      (2) Luke 13:5 (NKJV) ---- 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
      (3) Acts 17:30 (NKJV) ---- 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,
   c. CONFESS
      (1) Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ---- 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
      (2) Romans 10:10 (NKJV) ---- 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
   d. BE BAPTIZED
      (1) Mark 16:15 (NKJV) ---- 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. - 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
      (2) Acts 2:38 (NKJV) ---- 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
      (3) Acts 10:47 (NKJV) ---- 47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”
      (4) Acts 22:16 (NKJV) ---- 16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’
      (5) Romans 6:3-6 (NKJV) ---- 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
      (6) 1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV) ---- 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
2. **The Christian** – (Col. 1:23; Rev 2:10; Acts 8:18-24; 1 John 1:9)
   a. **BE GROUNDED IN THE FAITH** - *Colossians 1:23* (NKJV) ---- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
   b. **Be FAITHFUL** - *Revelation 2:10* (NKJV) ---- 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
   c. **UNDERSTAND WE CAN FALL** - *Acts 8:18-24* (NKJV) ---- 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” 20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.” 24 Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”
   d. **CONFESS OUR SINS AND PRAY** - *1 John 1:9* (NKJV) ---- 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

B. **The Need To Live In Love & Purity** – (Mark 12:29-31; Col. 3:1-14; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Ephe 5:1-18; 1 Pet 1:13-18)
   1. **Mark 12:29-31** (NKJV) ---- 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
   2. **Colossians 3:1-14** (NKJV) ---- 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.
   3. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** (NKJV) ---- 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” 17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse
ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

4. **Ephesians 5:1-18 (NKJV)** ---- 1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

5. **1 Peter 1:13-18 (NKJV)** ---- 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

C. The Need For Positive Divine Authority For Everything Believed, Taught & Practiced - (Mat 21:25; 1 Pet 4:11; Col. 3:17)

1. **Matthew 21:25 (NKJV)** ---- 25 The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

2. **1 Peter 4:11 (NKJV)** ---- 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

3. **Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)** ---- 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

D. The Plea For Unity Upon What The Bible Says – (1 Cor 1:10; John 17:20-22; Ephe 4:1-6)

1. **1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)** ---- 10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2. **John 17:20-22 (NKJV)** ---- 20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

3. **Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)** ---- 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord,
one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

E. Thus in every place that the church of Christ meets around the world one thing can be assured that if they are alone following the Word of God - their worship will be the same

IX. **The Worship Is Scriptural**


1. **Studying God’s Word** - *(Acts 20:7; Col 4:16)*
   
a. *Acts 20:7* (NKJV) ---- 7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

b. *Colossians 4:16* (NKJV) ---- 16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

2. **Singing** – *(Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16)*
   
a. *Ephesians 5:19* (NKJV) ---- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

b. *Colossians 3:16* (NKJV) ---- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

   
a. *Acts 4:23-31* (NKJV) ---- 23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.’ 27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

b. *Ephesians 6:18* (NKJV) ---- 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

4. **Giving** – *(1 Cor 16:1,2)*
   
a. *1 Corinthians 16:1* (NKJV) ---- 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

b. *1 Corinthians 16:2* (NKJV) ---- 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

c. NOTE: NOT TITHING

5. **Observing The Lord’s Supper** – *(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-26)*
   
a. *Acts 20:7* (NKJV) ---- 7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

b. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26* (NKJV) ---- 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

B. And the Work that the church does is Authorized
1. The N.T. reveals three works of the church
   a. Evangelism (Acts 13:1-3) (NKJV) ---- 1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.
   b. Edification (Eph 4:11-16) (NKJV) ---- 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
   c. Benevolence (Rom 15:25-26) (NKJV) ---- 25 But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. 26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.

X. Conclusion:
A. We have noted in our Study:
   1. The Foundation of It “Upon This Rock” -
   2. The Certainty of It “I Will Build”
   3. The Ownership, Intimacy & Singularity of It “My Church”
   4. The Invincibility Of It “The Gates of Hades Shall Not Prevail Against It” -
   5. Its Standard of Authority “The Keys of The Kingdom” –
B. The Church Is
   1. A Divine Institution –
   2. A Growing Institution –
   3. A Spiritual Institution –
   4. An Indestructible Institution –
   5. The Saved – Those Who Submit To God’s Word–
C. Christ and the Church
   1. Jesus is the Saviour (Eph. 5:23) - And we are the Saved (Acts 2:41, 47)
   2. Jesus paid the Purchase Price (Acts 20:28) - The church is what was Purchased (1 Cor. 6:20)
   3. We are His purchased possession (Eph. 1:14) - Christ is Our Redeemer (Gal. 3:13; 1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 9:12)
   4. We have been Redeemed by His blood (1 Pet. 1:18–19; Rev. 5:9) - Redemption is “in Christ” (Rom. 3:24)
   5. Redemption is unto the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14) - Christ has made Reconciliation (Heb. 2:17) The church are they who have been reconciled (Eph. 2:16) - It is by obedience to the

6. Jesus is the Head over all things… (Eph. 1:22–23) - To the body which is the church (Eph. 1:23).
7. This passage deals with the sufficiency of Christ in salvation (Eph. 1:3; 2:8) - Christ is the one who fills every need (Eph. 1:23)
8. That fullness is found in the church of Christ (Col. 1:19) - The church is the realm where all spiritual need is satisfied (Col. 2:19)

D. Is The church You Are A Part of Scriptural? IF NOT!
1. It is an addition to God’s word (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6)
2. It is not as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11)
3. It is not according to the pattern (Hebrews 8:5)
4. It is another gospel (Galatians 1:6-10)
5. It is of men (Matthew 21:25)
6. It cannot be done by faith (Romans 10:17)
7. It cannot be done in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:17)
8. It is not a good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
9. It does not pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:2-3)
10. It does not promote unity but division – (1 Cor. 1:10-11)
11. It causes one to not have God (2 John 9-11)

E. How about the church that you are a part of - does it pass the test of God’s revealed Word.
F. Nothing suffers from investigation - except error and that why I invite you to examine the church that belongs to Jesus Christ.