

## The church of Christ

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### Introduction

1. Matthew 16:18-20
2. There is much confusion about the church today
  - a. Some will tell you to join the church of YOUR choice.
  - b. Look around while driving and see how many different religious groups are present
  - c. Can we make a decision about which church is the right church?
3. We need a clear understanding of what the scriptures teach about the church.
  - a. Because God has told us exactly what He wants!
  - b. We can not change His Word
4. Let us study these passages to discern what it is that God wants

### II Discussion

1. Matthew 16:18-20
  - a. "Upon this rock"
    - i. The foundation was Peter's confession not Peter Matthew 16:16
    - ii. There is no other foundation 1 Corinthians 3:11
    - iii. Isaiah prophesied that Christ would be the foundation Isaiah 28:16 (Acts 4:11).
  - b. "I" The builder
    - i. Psalm 127:1; Matthew 15:13; Zechariah 6:11-13
    - ii. The Lord's church was not built by John the Baptist;
    - iii. The Lord's church was not built by Reformer Calvin or Luther
    - iv. The Lord's church was not built by a modern-day, self-proclaimed prophet Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Charles Russell or Judge Rutherford
  - c. "Will build" The time of the establishment
    - i. The kingdom or church was to come with power Mark 9:1
    - ii. The power was to come when the Holy Spirit came Acts 1:8
    - iii. The Holy Spirit came on Acts 2: 1-4 therefore the church came on Pentecost
  - d. "My" The possessor
    - i. The church belongs to the Lord by virtue of purchase Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25
    - ii. The church belongs to Him because of His relationship (next weeks' sermon)
  - e. "church" The number
    - i. Does the text mean what it says?
    - ii. Did Jesus say "churches?"
    - iii. Did Jesus say "a church"
    - iv. Did Jesus say "one of many churches"
    - v. But Jesus did say "my church" singular in number
    - vi. The church is not a church among churches rather it is one Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6
  - f. "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" the test
    - i. Hell in this passage is hades (the unseen realm and has no reference to the character of a person) and refers to the doors of death
    - ii. Hades could not retain him Acts 2:27
    - iii. The gates of hell would not prevent Christ from being resurrected (Romans 1:4) and the church from being established.

- iv. Hells gates will not stop the church from continuing.
- g. "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom" The authority
  - i. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost enabling them to unerringly issue the terms of entrance into the kingdom Acts 2:37-41
  - ii. The Inspired word of God is the standard of authority in religion Jude 3

### III Conclusion

1. This is the church of the New Testament.
2. If we would do the same thing that those on Pentecost did we will be added to the same church.
3. Will you Believe, Repent, Confess and Be baptized for the remission of your sins?

Sources: Gospel Advocate May 9, 1974 article written by Wendell Winkler p. 291-295; Studies in Matthew Denton lectureship 1995 Bobby Liddell p. 209-223; G.A. Commentary on Matthew p. 346; A commentary on Matthew and Mark by J.W. McGarvey p.146