

Jesus Built One Church

by Wayne Goff

“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.” (Matthew 16:18)

Jesus Promised It

It is more than plain to see that Jesus promised to build His church and that the “*gates of Hades*” (His death) would not prevent it.

We know that Jesus foretold His own arrest in Jerusalem, trial before the Jewish and Roman authorities, and His subsequent crucifixion. This seemed like **DEFEAT** to His disciples at the time. But what they did not know and understand was that Jesus’ death was actually **GOD’S VICTORY!** Let’s look at it:

“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, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14–15). Jesus, the Son of God, became human and used His body to sacrifice His life’s blood on the cross to pay for our sins. By doing that, He destroyed Satan and the fear of eternal death. **Victory!**

On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the apostles proclaimed this same truth to the audience that helped put Him to death. *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it” (Acts 2:22–24).*

Notice several points in these verses. (1) God proved to these Jews that Jesus was God’s Son by the miracles which Jesus did. (2) In spite of this, they conspired to kill Jesus rather than to believe His message and change their lives. (3) His death was actually part of God’s “*determined purpose and foreknowledge*” so that putting Jesus to death was actually accomplishing God’s purpose! (4) Finally, when God raised up Jesus from the dead, He thus defeated Satan, sin, and death — giving us wonderful hope and peace!

The Church = The Saved

Those who gladly received the message of salvation through the death of Jesus Christ believed, repented and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:37-41). Having done that, the Lord *added them to His church* (Acts 2:47). You see, the “**church**” is the realm of salvation and it is comprised of every saved soul that has been purchased with Jesus’ blood.

So when Jesus said, “*I will build My church*” He had in mind all those saved people who would make it up. This is called today the “*church of Christ*” (see Romans 16:16). This church is an extension of His will, and thus is called “*His body*” (Ephesians 1:22-23). This church does what Jesus (Head) commands. Well, isn’t that what a body does?

So where is this body today? It is everywhere two or more are gathered together to do everything He has commanded them to do in worship and work. Do not be fooled by human substitutions! Read your New Testament, learn what the church is supposed to be and do, and then find the church today that does that. You can then be part of that saved body when you, too, obey the Gospel! If you need assistance, feel free to ask. We will only give you a Bible answer.

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