

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“On This Rock”

By Derek Long

Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (vs. 13, NKJV). They respond with the various opinions of who Jesus was (vs. 14). He asks them who they say He is and Peter responds, “You are the Christ the Son of the living God” (vs. 15-16, NKJV). Jesus will respond to Peter saying, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 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. 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” (vs. 17-19, NKJV). Jesus promises to build His church “on this rock.” What is the rock upon which Jesus would build His church?

Is Peter the rock upon which Jesus would build His church? The Roman Catholic church and perhaps others take the view Jesus is saying the church will be built upon Peter. The Catholic's would claim this passage is giving authorization for the office of the pope. However, Peter clearly did not serve

as a pope in the early church. Peter did not want people falling down before him (Acts 10:25-26). Peter was not infallible as some think the pope would be (Galatians 2:11-14). Peter speaks of himself as a “fellow elder” and not as the pope over the universal church (1 Peter 5:1). If Peter was an elder, he must have been married and have children which is not allowed of popes (1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5; Titus 1:6). In addition, the New Testament makes it clear Jesus is “head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18). Jesus is the only head of the church. No man can be the head of His church.

Some argue the name “Peter” means “rock” and therefore Jesus must be referring to Peter as the rock. However, the word used for Peter and rock are not the same word in the Greek. The idea of Peter being the rock upon which the church is built does not have support in other places in Scripture but contradicts other things we find in Scripture.

The phrase “this rock” following the statement, “you are Peter” seems to point back to something previous in the text. The word “this” does not seem to refer back to Peter because it does not agree with the word “Peter” in person, case, or gender in the Greek. Pronouns generally would agree in gender with the word it refers to.

Jesus or perhaps more specifically the fact Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God is the rock upon which the church is built. Other passages in the New Testament would speak of Jesus as the rock or foundation upon which the church is built (1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 2:4-8). In the context of Matthew 16:18 Jesus is identified as the builder but the truth confessed by Peter would serve as the foundation upon which

the church would rest. The church stands upon the fact Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. It is this fact which was preached to the people on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36) which resulted in people being added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:41, 47). It is the fact Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God which serves as the reason for why the church does what it does. If Jesus is not the Christ the Son of the living God, then the church would collapse.

In Matthew 16:18-19 Jesus is identified as the builder of the church, Peter is identified as the one holding the keys, and the fact of who Jesus is (which was confessed by Peter - vs. 16) is the foundation upon which the church is built. To say Peter is the rock would place him in the position of both the one holding the keys as well as the rock upon which it is built. These are just some of the important lessons we can learn from Matthew 16:18 about the church Jesus built. Are you a part of the church Jesus built?