

THE BEDROCK OF THE CHURCH
(Was the Church build on Peter?)
Matt 16:13-20

Intro:

Many today claim that Jesus build the church on Peter. Various religious bodies hold Peter to be the first "Pope" and hold him and his following successors to be infallible. But did Christ say he was going to build his church on the Apostle Peter?

- I. Jesus asks his disciples who others thought he was.
 - A. Some said John the Baptist raised from the dead
 - B. Some said Elias (Elijah) - believed would usher in Messianic era.
 - C. Some said Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

- II. Jesus asks his disciple who they thought he was.
 - A. A question we need to ask ourselves as believers today.
 - B. We oft know what others think of Christ but haven't decided ourself.

- III. Jesus was establishing his authority.
 - A. What right did he have to do the things he did?
 - B. This was the context of the situation.

- IV. Peter makes the great confession.
 - A. Acknowledges the deity of Christ.
 - B. Acknowledges his power was from heaven. Mt 28:18
 - C. Jesus commends Peter and affirms that his confession was from God.

- V. Jesus promises to build his church.
 - A. Says thou art "Peter" and upon this "Rock" I will build my church.
 - B. Gates of Hell (hades) would not destroy it.
 1. Hades - departed realm of the dead.
 2. Jesus died and arose from the dead victorious over it. Acts 2:27
 - C. Peter would receive the "keys of the Kingdom."
 1. Keys unlock something.
 2. Peter would receive something to unlock the kingdom.
 3. These keys would be the preaching of the gospel.
 4. He preached first to Jews (Acts 2) and then Gentiles (Acts 10).
 5. The law Peter and other apostles taught was binding.
 6. The law came from the Holy Spirit - not man. John 14:26, 16:13

- VI. Was Church built on Peter?
 - A. Peter's name is "Petros" (m) and means a pebble or small stone.
 1. easily moved just like Peter's fickle character.
 - B. Jesus said he would build on the "Petra" (f) or bedrock.
 1. strong and unshakable. ie: the confession Peter had made.
 - C. While Jesus was making a play on words he was not promising to build his church on Peter.

- VII. The church was built on the bedrock of truth that Jesus is God's son.

Conclusion: The church was built on the fact that Jesus is God's son. Neither the Greek nor the context allows for us to say the church was built on Peter.