**The Church that Jesus Was Going to Build**

**Introduction:**

Jesus made a great statement that is recorded in Matthew 16:18. “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.” NKJV But what was this church Jesus was talking about that He was going to build? How can we identify it today among all the different churches that we see?

**Body:**

1. **Its Origin**

* The church started in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:1-3) “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord’s house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” NKJV (Acts 2:5) “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.” NKJV
* The church began in the 1st Century. (Daniel 2:44) “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.” NKJV (Acts 2:47) “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” NKJV

1. **Descriptions of the Church** (Ephesians 3:15) “from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,” NKJV

* Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23) “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” NKJV
* Church of God (I Corinthians 1:2) “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:” NKJV
* Bride of Christ (Revelation 21:9) “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ” NKJV
* Church of the Firstborn (Hebrews 12:23) “to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,” NKJV
* Churches of Christ (Romans 16:16) “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” NKJV

1. **Names of Its Members**

* Saints (Romans 1:7) “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” NKJV
* Disciples (John 15:8) “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” NKJV
* Brethren (Matthew 23:8) “But you, do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, the Christ and you are all brethren.” NKJV
* Children of God (I John 3:2) “Beloved now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” NKJV
* Christians (Acts 11:25-26) “Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” NKJV

1. **Its Rule of Faith and Worship**

* Word of God (II Timothy 3:16-17) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” NKJV
* Worship (John 4:24) “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” NKJV
  + Sing (Ephesians 5:19) “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” NKJV
  + Pray (Acts 2:42) “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” NKJV
  + Teach/Preach (Acts 20:7) “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.” NKJV
  + Partake of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7a) “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,” NKJV (I Corinthians 11:23-26) “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; 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.’ 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.’ For as often aa you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” NKJV
  + Contribute (I Corinthians 16:1-2) “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 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.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

We have seen from Scripture itself what the church was that Jesus built and of which He is the head. Does this describe the church to which you belong?

Bobby Stafford August 27, 2017