



# Lighthouse Beacon

August 2012

## CHRIST BUILDS HIS CHURCH

**“I will build my church,  
and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” Mt. 16:18**

As I work with churches, I am constantly reminded of this Scripture. Our Lord leaves no room for discussion and asks for no help. Let's look at what lies behind this statement and its importance—to churches and to lighthouses....*Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

### JESUS - THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH:

#### The foundation is revealed:

Jesus revealed to Peter and the other disciples a great mystery when He instructed them about how the Church would come into existence. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks the disciples who the world thinks He is. Then He addresses the same question to the disciples:

Matthew 16:15-17: “Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” “Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because My Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.”

Jesus says that Peter has received a revelation from God as to the truth about Jesus—that Jesus is not just a great teacher (Rabbi) or simply and extraordinarily good man, but He is the Messiah, the long promised ‘Son of the living God.’ So the Father revealed to Peter something no human could have ever figured out or even guessed—Jesus

is man and God all in one and has come to fulfill prophecy and save Israel.

Under the power of God’s Holy Spirit, Peter could reveal this amazing truth, but none of the disciples could even begin to understand its implications from a Kingdom perspective. The next statement Jesus makes must have really caused them to wonder:

Matthew 16:18 “Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”

In verse 18, Jesus uses the term ‘petra’ to explain what He is about to do. He named Peter ‘petros’, which is a single stone or rock, but used ‘petra’ for ‘this rock’ which means a mass of rock – one big piece or many small ones crushed together (think of bedrock). Jesus also specifically used ‘petra’ to define a foundation when He said in [Matthew 7:24](#): “Every-one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (petra)



**“Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matt 5:16**

***Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world." —John 8:12***

When verse 18 is poorly interpreted, some people mistakenly think Jesus is stating that Peter would be the foundation. But Jesus is actually telling the disciples that His foundation, His bedrock for His Church, would be built on the revelation Peter was just given—that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” The foundation for Jesus’ Church would not be built on the fallible flesh of man, but on the immutable truth of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.

Have you ever considered what the phrase ‘I will build my church’ would have meant to the disciples? Scriptures do not reveal Jesus mentioning anything about ‘His Church’ before this point. The disciples thought they were following a great Jewish Rabbi with amazing powers from God, but there was no prior indication of how much Jesus would impact and change the world they knew.

Hidden in this phrase was an upheaval of the Jewish worship system, political system, and even of Israel itself. This phrase must have caused a lot of whispering among the disciples. But the next statement must really have been a very confusing shocker!

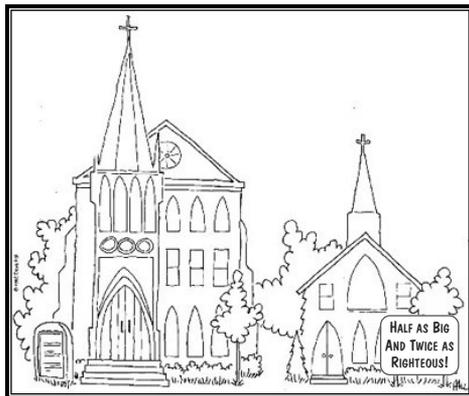
*How the foundation must be laid:*

“From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

**Matthew 16:21**

Here Jesus explains that in order for the foundation of Jesus as the Messiah (Savior) to be properly put in place to save Israel, ‘the Son of the Living God’ must suffer and die and be resurrected! This mind-boggling truth was so well received that Peter takes Jesus aside and says ‘no way’ would he let this happen! And Jesus has to rebuke the influence and presence of Satan that was causing Peter to respond like this.

The foundation of the Church that is the Bride of Christ was very difficult for



those who walked with Jesus to understand because it was a brand new concept and radically different than anything they had ever been taught. It really did take a revelation from God to even begin to grasp what was about to unfold.

And God continued to help these disciples proceed on a journey that would build Christ’s Church on this foundation so it could stand strong, even until today.

**Jesus Became The Cornerstone:**

Once Jesus gave us the foundation for our faith and our future by revealing that He was our Savior (Messiah) He then laid down His life and took it up again (“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” John 10:18) so His Church could be built.

But He did not stop there and just turn over the construction of His Church to

**"...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." —Ephesians 5:8**

mankind. Instead, He became the first building stone to be placed on this foundation – the cornerstone: “As the Scriptures say, “I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced. Yes, you who trust him recog-

nize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, “The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.” 1 Peter 2:6 -7

A cornerstone must be carefully and precisely laid because all further construction will be guided by the corner-

## Gwen's Corner

We lost our long-time Christian neighbors who lived behind us. He died and Lois, now 86, had to move to an assisted-living home. But she still manages to attend her church every Sunday, thanks to a faithful couple from the church who pick her up. One Sunday morning recently, she was waiting in the lobby of the assisted-living home for them but they never showed up. (She found out later that they had a death in the family earlier in the week and had left town, forgetting to call her.) But when Lois realized something must have happened and they probably would not be coming, she decided to just go visit a nearby church. The facility's bus driver who was on duty and in the lobby said he would take her there. As they were in route he said, "I need to start going back to church." Lois replied, "Well, I know you have to work on Sunday's but there are some churches that have Saturday night services." Later, she called me and asked me what churches have Saturday night services so that she could provide this man with the information to encourage him on in pursuing it. Also that Sunday morning while she had been waiting in the lobby, she asked another resident from there to come along with her to church.

I was touched at how this dear friend of mine was, at age 86, inviting people to come to church to taste and see the goodness of God and His Word. He is faithful to use us as "lighthouses" right where we live—even when we're 86 years old in an assisted-living home!

*Even in old age they will still produce fruit;  
They will remain vital and green. Ps. 92:14*

## ***"You are the light of the world." —Matthew 5:14***

stone. Every weight bearing wall, every bit of upward growth will always refer back to this cornerstone.

This is why the Church must always refer to Christ for every decision and direction, even today. As Psalm 127:1 reminds us: "**Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.**" Any building that is done without Christ is condemned as wood, hay and stubble and although it may look good and exciting when new, it will not survive.

Therefore Jesus became the cornerstone so that His Church would always have a reference point for all of its future growth and decision making. Even today, those who are part of His Church refer back to Him for protection, direction, strength, wisdom, guidance, power and resources to continue growing.

Next month we will look at how Jesus chose to build His Church and the roles all of His children fill in that building process. Until then.....*Let Him Shine!*



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Half of all Americans believe that trying to be good will get them to Heaven. Although most Americans have heard of Jesus Christ, the tragedy is that so many across our land don't know Him as Lord and Savior. Millions do not understand the truth of the Gospel and remain lost in sin.

SOURCE: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association/2012

### **LightShine's Praises & Prayer Requests:**

**PRAISE!** LightShine's website was seen by a Pastor in Kenya Africa and, hopefully, he will be able to use some of our teaching materials for his ministry.

**PRAY:** For LightShine's upcoming Board of Directors meeting, for God's word & direction for LightShine.

**PRAY:** That God will give you a divine encounter this week to talk with someone in your neighborhood about Christ.

### ***Who Is LightShine Ministries?***

*LightShine is a faith-based ministry, supported by gifts from individuals like you. We work with many ministries, churches & denominations at local, state & national levels. If you want to help support LightShine, with your prayers, time, resources, or finances, contact us at 505-293-0743 or write to us at LightShine Ministries, 2039 Virginia NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110*