

Jesus said, *“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.”*
Matt 16:18

Three Facts Regarding the Church

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Church is the Body of Christ

- When a person obeys the gospel of Christ, he becomes a part of the body of Christ.
 - The Lord adds people to the church.
Acts 2:38-47
 - Christians have been baptized into the body of Christ. ***1 Cor 12:12-13***
 - The apostle Paul wrote, *“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”*
1 Cor 12:27

The Church is the Body of Christ

- Jesus is the head over all things to the church. ***Eph 1:19-23***

The Church Makes Known the Wisdom of God

- The church reveals or makes known the “*manifold*” wisdom of God. ***Eph 3:8-13***
 - The word manifold (NKJV) means “much varied.” The NASB reads, “*multifaceted wisdom of God.*”
 - The wisdom of God is revealed by the church, the body of Christ to everyone including “*the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.*”

The Church Makes Known the Wisdom of God

- Consider a few aspects of God's wisdom made known by the church. ***Eph 3:8-13***
 - The “*unsearchable riches of Christ*” are made known by the church. ***vs 8***
 - The eternal purpose of God accomplished in Christ Jesus is made known by the church. ***vs 11***
 - The boldness we have in Christ as well as our access through faith in Him is also made known by the church. ***vs 12***

The Church is Composed of God's Own Special People

- The physical descendants of Abraham were God's chosen people.
- However, God's people rebelled and rejected His covenant and law.
- Because of Israel's disobedience, God determined to establish a new covenant built upon better promises. ***Heb 8:1-13; cf. Heb 9:13-15***

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- This new covenant would be for all people who come to the Lord to learn from Him.
 - Isaiah and Micah prophesied that many nations would flow to the “*mountain of the Lord's house.*” ***Isa 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-5***

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- This new covenant would be for all people who come to the Lord to learn from Him.
 - The apostle Paul wrote, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Rom 1:16-17***

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- This new covenant would be for all people who come to the Lord to learn from Him.
 - In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul wrote, “...*that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*”
Eph 3:5-6

The Church is Composed of God's Own Special People

- Peter refers to Christians as being “His own special people...” **1 Pet 2:4-10**
 - In verse 10, Peter wrote, “*who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*”
 - This statement points us back to God's promise that Israel, who had fallen and was no longer God's people, would one day be His people. **Hos 1:9-10; 2:23**

The Church is Composed of God's Own Special People

- Under the New Covenant of Jesus, *“whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*
Acts 2:16-21; cf. Rom 10:11-13

Conclusion

- Let us remember these simple truths:
 - The church is the body of Christ.
 - The church makes known the “manifold” wisdom of God.
 - The church is composed of God’s “own special people.”

Conclusion

- If you are not yet a Christian, then humble yourself before the Lord and answer the gospel's call to salvation.
 - *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38*
 - *Those “who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” Acts 2:41*