

The Church That Jesus Built

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 16:13-19

INTRODUCTION.

I. THE CHURCH IS...

A. Built by Jesus. (Matthew 16:18)

1. He died for the church.
 - a. The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep. (John 10:11,15)
 - b. Jesus loved the church and gave His life for her. (Ephesians 5:25)
 - c. Jesus gave His life to redeem the church. (Titus 2:14; cf. Galatians 1:4)
2. He purchased the church with His blood. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:7, 14)
3. Jesus is the head of the body. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18)

B. Is added to by God.

1. The Lord adds the saved to the church. (Acts 2:36-41, 47)
2. When a person obeys the gospel's call, they are baptized into the church, the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
 - a. Paul wrote to the church in Rome, "*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*" (Romans 6:3)
 - b. Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*" (Galatians 3:27)

C. Made up of those called out of worldliness and sin.

1. The Greek word translated as church, *ekklēsia*, means "called out."
2. Called by the gospel. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
3. Called out of darkness. (1 Peter 2:9)
4. Called with a "heavenly calling." (Hebrews 3:1)
5. Called in one body. (Colossians 3:15)

6. Called in holiness. (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- D. Built on the proper foundation.
 1. Its foundation's cornerstone is Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:20)
 2. Its foundation is the teachings of the apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 2:20; cf. Acts 2:42)
 3. Consider also the seal of the "foundation of God." (2 Timothy 2:19)
 - a. "The Lord knows those who are His."
 - b. "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
- E. The temple of the Lord.
 1. God does not dwell in temples made with hands. (Acts 7:48-50)
 - a. The apostle Paul said, *"God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands."* (Acts 17:24)
 2. The household of God *"grows into a holy temple in the Lord."* (Ephesians 2:19-22)
 3. We are *"the temple of God."* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16)
 4. We, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house. (1 Peter 2:4-5)

CONCLUSION.

- A. The church of Christ is...
 1. Built by Jesus Christ.
 2. Made up of those called out of sin.
 3. Added to by God.
 4. Built on the proper foundation.
 5. The temple of the Lord.
- B. The Call:
 1. If you are still roaming around in the world of sin, then answer the gospel's call to salvation today.
 2. Listen to the gospel's call to come out of darkness and into Jesus Christ.

3. Be buried with Christ through baptism and raised through faith in the working of God. (Colossians 2:11-13)

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by John M. Duvall – March 8, 2026 – File #: 1443, Church

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma