

Foundation of the Church - Matt. 16:18

Sermon for Gospel Meeting

20 Minutes

I. Introduction (5 min.).

- A. Foundations are important. Examples.
- B. Most Important: Foundation of our faith/Church.
- C. Foundation = *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"*, **Matt. 16:16**.
- D. Roman Catholicism claims foundation of church on earth is the pope based on these Scriptures.

II. Not Consistent with Context (3 min.).

- A. Setting: JC question to his disciples: *Who do people say Son of Man is?* vs. 13. *Who do you say I am,* vs. 15.
- B. Not a question about who is Peter.
- C. Not consistent with larger context of why the gospels were written.

III. Not Consistent with Language (5 min.).

- A. Read **vs. 17-18**.
- B. RC claim Peter means rock. Peter and rock are different words.
 - 1. **Peter** = Gr. "petros", masculine. Means = pebbles, a detached stone, boulder, or a stone that might be thrown or easily moved.
 - 2. **Rock** = Gr. "petra", feminine. Means = a rock, ledge or cliff that can not be easily moved.
- C. Substitute = "upon this Peter I will build my Church" !?!
- D. Rock is not Peter but Peter's confession.

IV. Not Consistent with Scripture (4 min.).

- A. Read **vs. 19**.
- B. RC position would give Peter preeminence above the other apostles.
- C. Remember in ascertaining authority: specifics do not necessary exclude. *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven"* is referencing Peter but does not exclude the other apostles. In fact, the other apostles also have the "keys", **Matt. 19:28, Eph. 2:20**.
- D. Would the Lord give Peter the preeminence considering the rebuke, **vs. 22-23**, Peter denying the Lord 3x and the occasions the Lord (transfiguration)/disciples or even Peter himself (his writings) could reaffirm his preeminence.

VI. Conclusion (3 min.).

- A. Sermon defensive in nature: defending the faith vs. RC.
- B. Our eternal salvation rests on this unshakeable and everlasting foundation that Jesus is the Christ, Son of God and thru His sacrifice and our obedient faith, we are blessed today and forevermore.
- C. Invitation.