



III. THE SCRIPTURAL ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH

A. The Announcement of the Church (Matthew 16:18)

1. I will
 - a. I—demonstrates the responsibility for bringing this church to pass is fully laid upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. Will—demonstrates it was yet future, but certain to come to pass.
2. Build—demonstrates how the church would come to be. It must be built, and it must be built by the Lord Himself.
3. My church—demonstrates possession. The “church” mentioned here cannot be any “church” until the Lord owned it.

B. The Building of the Church

1. The Lord said He would build His church.
2. The building of Christ’s church was connected to His death.
 - a. Jesus Christ was the “chief corner stone.”
 - (1) He was prophesied as a stone in the Old Testament (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; Isaiah 28:16)
 - (2) The Lord dealt with this in the New Testament as a truth that was connected to His rejection and crucifixion (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17-18).
 - (3) Simon Peter connected it to the rejection and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:11).
 - (4) The apostle Paul declared Christ to be the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11), and said that Christ was the chief corner stone of the one body of Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:20).
 - (5) Peter declared that we came to this stone and when we did we became a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:1-8).
 - b. Jesus Christ was its builder
 - (1) It should be of no surprise that His earthly trade was that of a carpenter (Mark 6:3).
 - (2) As the carpenter, Christ would have done His work with:
 - a) Wood (Galatians 3:13)
 - b) Nails (John 20:25)
 - c) Hammer
3. The association of Christ’s death to the building of His church is demonstrated in the context of Matthew chapter 16.
 - a. The announcement of the church (Matthew 16:18)
 - b. The giving of the keys of the kingdom (Matthew 16:19-20)
 - c. The announcement of the crucifixion (Matthew 16:21-23)

C. The Purchase of the Church

1. The New Testament church is the Lord’s—“my church” (Matthew 16:18).



2. It would have become His by a purchase.
 - a. The “church of God” was purchased by Christ’s blood (Acts 20:28).
 - b. We are redeemed by His blood (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14).
 - c. Our eternal redemption was taken care of when the blood was placed on the mercy seat in Heaven (Hebrews 9:12-14).
 - d. The Holy Ghost is the earnest of that purchase (Ephesians 1:14).

D. The Growth of the Church (1 Corinthians 13:11-13)

1. Infancy
 - a. Preaching only to Jews
 - b. Preaching the baptism of John
 - c. Sign gifts
2. Childhood
 - a. Sign gifts
 - b. Began to reach out to Gentiles
3. Maturity
 - a. Sign gifts ceased
 - b. Jew and Gentiles in one body
 - c. The focus on faith, hope, and charity

E. The Beginning of the New Testament

1. The mediator of the testament (Hebrews 9:15)
2. The offering of the testament (Hebrews 9:16-17)
 - a. The testament was present (Hebrews 9:16).
 - b. The testament was prepared while the testator lived (Hebrews 9:17).
3. The effect of the testament (Hebrews 9:16-17)
 - a. The death of the testator was necessary (Hebrews 9:16)
 - b. The testament was of force after the death of the testator (Hebrews 9:17).
4. The dedication of the testament (Hebrews 9:18)

F. Conclusion

1. A church (congregation) was present during the earthly ministry of Christ (Matthew 18:17; Hebrews 2:12).
2. This could not, however, have been the New Testament church as the New Testament was not in effect until the death of Christ.
3. The church could not be rightfully called “my church” by Christ until He purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28).
4. This did not happen until Christ sprinkled His blood on the mercy seat in heaven, which likely took place between John 20:17 and Matthew 28:9.
5. We know the New Testament church began no later than Pentecost, when the Lord was said to have “added” to the church (Acts 2:47).
6. This would narrow the beginning of the New Testament church down to sometime between John 20:17 and Acts 2:47.