



The Church Eternal & Triumphant

Part 1 of 6

“I Will Build My Church...”

By Rev. Michael J. Burns

I. Many times as Pastors, we feel the pressure to keep preaching something that we have never preached before. After all, we are paid to do that, aren't we? The truth is what has been recorded in the scriptures...

2 Peter 1:12-13

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, *to stir you up by putting you in remembrance*; (KJV)

2 Timothy 2:2

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (KJV)

- Notice that God does not commit to talent or the able, He commits to the faithful and so should we as leaders!

2 Timothy 4:2

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (KJV)

*Notice that we are not to be negligent to put believers in remembrance of what the word says, even ground that we have already covered!

Today, *I want to begin teaching about the local church***, and the ***purpose*** for it, it's ***foundation***, it's ***authority*** and ***power***, and ***your part in it!***

Q: *Why, for instance, are we told not to forsake the assembly of ourselves together in Hebrews 10:25?*

- Many have felt their flesh tell them not to go to church for various reasons, yet when they made the choice to go, they were glad they did and found renewed strength!

Q: *Why is this age called the church age or the dispensation of the church?*

- We will look at these and other questions as they relate to the church!

II. Let's look at the first mention of the church in the NT, where Jesus is giving a prophecy of the coming of the church!

Matthew 16:13-18

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art **Peter** , and upon this **rock** **I will build my church** ; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (KJV)

Peter = Petros - small stone, a pebble.

Rock = Petra - named after a city just outside of Israel in Jordan, a city carved out of a huge rock or mountain.

****The rock is the confession of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over your life, that is what the church is being built upon, and that is what came out of Peter's mouth!**

I = speaks of who is building the church!

Will = speaks of Jesus' determination!

Build = speaks of how He will build it, a brick or stone at a time. Lot's of rocks in Israel! We are living stones! **1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 2:2; Ephesians 2:19-22**

My = speaks of Jesus ownership over the church.

Church = The first mention of the church in the NT and ***[speaks of the church universal and the local church!]. The meaning is that the church is made up of those called out of darkness into His marvelous light!***

Church = Ekklessia - Ek, OUT -- Klessia, TO CALL. Hence the called out ones!

Ephesians 1:22

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the **church** , **[Note, this is speaking of the church universal!]** (KJV)

Galatians 1:2

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the **churches** of Galatia:(KJV)

- This speaks of the local churches scattered throughout Galatia!

****God uses visible things to teach us about invisible things!**

[Marriage -- Children -- Communion -- The Local Church!]

Galatians 3:28

28 There is neither ***Jew nor Greek*** , there is neither ***bond nor free*** , there is neither ***male nor female*** : for ye are all one in Christ Jesus . (KJV)

- Here we are told that there is no racial distinction in the church, both locally as well as universally! Neither is there any **Social** or **Gender** distinction in the body of Christ!

- When we get to heaven there will be no identifying natural attributes in terms of race, social, or gender!

III. Here are some other terms used to describe the church...

1) The Body of Christ - **Colossians 1:18**

2) The Family of God - **Ephesians 3:14-15**

“...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” This speaks of the highest forms of government or ranks in government relative to the kingdom of satan!

Proverbs 31:23

23 Her husband is known in **the gates**, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. (KJV)

Psalms 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, **O ye gates**; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, **O ye gates**; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah. (KJV)

*This is not speaking of the rapture of the church, but the time when Jesus will return to establish His kingdom on the earth!

Isaiah 9:6

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (KJV)

Philippians 2:10-11

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV)

Q: Who or What are the gates of hell?

A: The devil himself, demons, principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places!

IV. Here are some thoughts on the local church and it's up and down influence!

- On the very same day the universal church began, the local church began! It was the day that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from death.

- God's will has been that the local church be the focal point of ministry that goes on, yet over the history of the church, God moved outside of the local church and the reason was because the local church wouldn't let God in!

- The reason God moved outside of the church is to provoke the church, just like God moved among the gentile world to provoke the Jewish world!

James 5:14-15

14 Is any sick among you? Let him **call for the elders of the church**; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (KJV)

[Tent revivals and the healing revival, The Charismatic move in denominational churches, The Full Gospel Businessmen's movement, Praise & Worship, The Word movement.]

*Sad to say that God moved that way when it was His will to move in the church that way, the good news is that God has gone back to local church!

**Now you can go to church and get filled with the Holy Ghost, receive your healing, get your marriage restored, Hallelujah!

**The church is the place that God has always desired to move, yet in many surveys on the local church, society has minimized the importance of the local church and the need for it, but that must change and is changing!

(This is Part One of Six Parts of a sermon by Rev. Michael J. Burns who pastored for over 35 years in Long Island, New York. If you would like the remaining parts 2-6, simply send your request to mjbcjf@gmail.com and make your specific request for the remainder of this sermon series. All questions and comments should also be directed to the same email address. Please visit

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