

Message Four

The Kingdom of God and the Building of God

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18-19; 21:42, 44; 5:14

- I. **The Father's eternal will is to build up the church upon Christ the Son as the rock—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.**
- II. **God's building is the desire of God's heart and the goal of God's salvation—Eph. 1:5, 9; 2:8, 10, 21-22; Exo. 25:8.**
- III. **Only the church built up according to the Lord's desire can be the stepping stone into the age of the kingdom; thus, for the sake of His coming back, the Lord needs the church to be built up—Matt. 16:18-19, 27-28.**
- IV. **Whatever God is doing today—in preaching the gospel, in edifying the saints, and in establishing churches—is part of His building work; these activities are part of God's main work, the work of building—v. 18; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.**
- V. **We need the Lord to deliver us from natural and improper concepts of God's building and to usher us into a divine understanding of God's building—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 3:9:**
 - A. God's building is the Triune God wrought into us so that we may become His corporate expression—3:17a, 19b, 21.
 - B. God's building is the mingling of God with man; the principle of God's building is that God builds Himself into us and builds us into Himself—John 14:20; 15:4a; Eph. 3:17a.
 - C. God's building is the enlargement, the expansion, of the Triune God, enabling God to express Himself in a corporate way—Col. 2:19; John 3:30a.
- VI. **The Lord's word in Matthew 16:18 is the greatest prophecy in the Bible: "Upon this rock I will build My church":**
 - A. In His heavenly ministry the ascended Christ is directing and managing the building up of His church—Eph. 1:19-23; 4:8-16.
 - B. As the stone for God's building, Christ is the foundation stone, the topstone, and the cornerstone; in Him and through Him, we are becoming living stones to be built up as a spiritual house—Matt. 21:42, 44; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 4:7; 1 Pet. 2:4-5.
- VII. **The Lord's word about "a city situated upon a mountain" indicates that the kingdom people need the building—5:14:**
 - A. The light is not an individual believer; the light is a corporate city built up as one entity to shine over the people surrounding it—Rev. 21:23-24a.
 - B. If we are divided, we are finished with the shining; in order to be a shining city, we must keep the oneness and remain one entity, a corporate Body—Eph. 4:1-6; 5:8-9.