

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

## Lesson 1, Part 2

### Christ and His Church - How the Local Church is Formed.

Matthew 16:13–19 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

#### A. The most essential question ever asked.

#### B. Salvation is ultimately a \_\_\_\_\_ work of God.

17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

1. We are humanly \_\_\_\_\_ of understanding spiritual truth apart from a supernatural influence from God.

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

1 Corinthians 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

**2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ from birth.**

Romans 3:10-12 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.”

Isaiah 64:6–7 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on Your name, Who **arouses himself** to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us And have delivered us into the power of our iniquities.

**3. God the Father must \_\_\_\_\_ us to Christ**

**John 6:35–43** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. 37 “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

I will certainly not cast out. 38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” 41 Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.” 42 They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?” 43 Jesus answered and said to them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.

### Two principles drawn from these verses:

1. They emphasize God’s \_\_\_\_\_ over salvation.

39 “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of **ALL** that He has given Me **I lose nothing**,

2. God’s sovereignty does not cancel out \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility in salvation.

40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and **BELIEVES** in Him will have eternal life,

### Acts 8:26-37

# CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

## C. Four principle truths regarding the New Testament Church

### 1. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church.

18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church;

Catholics have built their entire religion on this verse.

They believe in Apostolic Succession.

They see their long line of Popes as recipients of an uninterrupted transmission of spiritual authority that goes back to Peter.

#### **That is not true for three reasons:**

- (a) Matt 18:1-4 - Disciples asked Jesus “who was the greatest in the kingdom”
- (b) Peter himself never claimed any superiority over other apostles.
- (c) Their position is a misinterpretation of this verse.

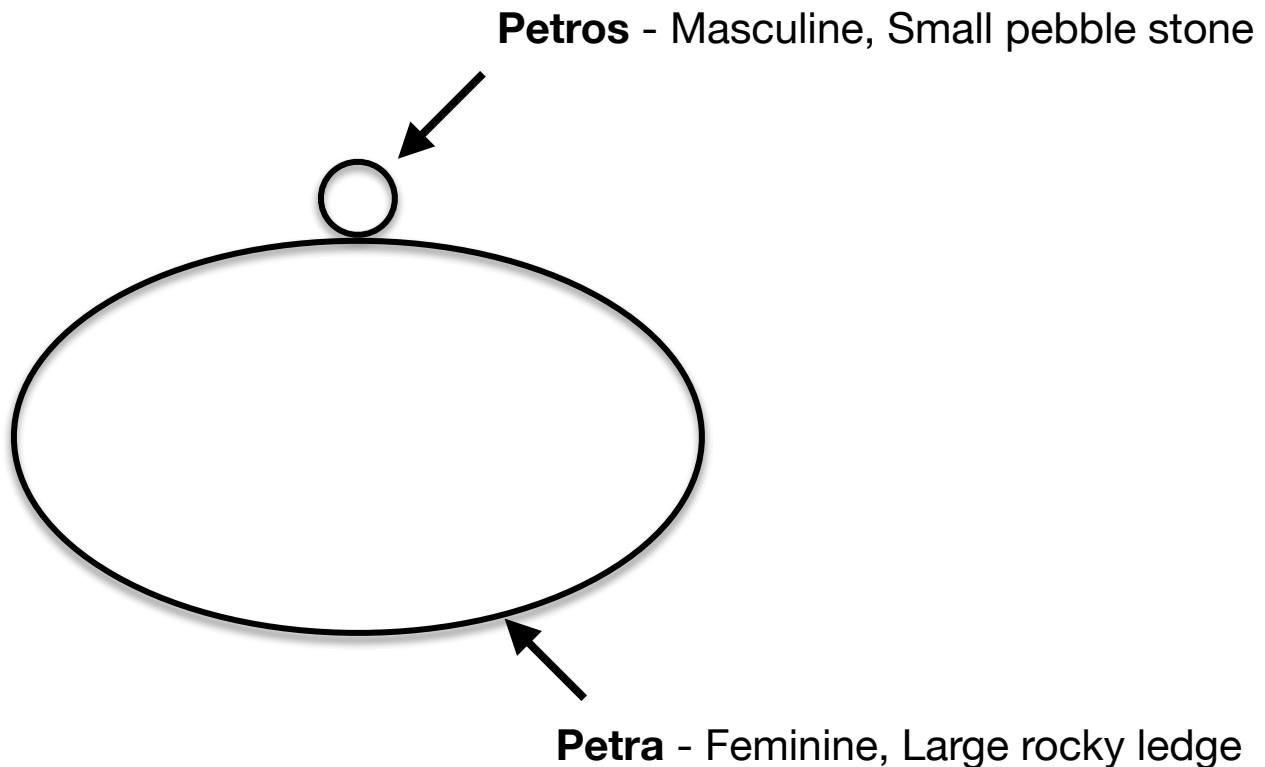
#### **Who or what is the rock?**

Jesus chose two different Greek words for rock.

- (1) Peter {petros} masculine.- a small stone or loose rock

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

(2) Rock {petra} feminine - a large rocky ledge, mountain or peak



### Enhanced or expanded translation

18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter (the small stone - Masculine), and upon this rock (large rocky and sturdy ledge - Feminine) I will build My church;

Peter would be apostle that will preach at Pentecost, but it's not Peter's personal supremacy on which Jesus promised to build His church.

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

2. The rock that the church is built on must be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

Peter's answer (16) "you are the Christ, the Son of the living God"

### Scripture always interprets Scripture

1 Corinthians 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

**The context demands that the "rock" which the church is built on is gospel.**

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **IT** is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.17 For in **IT** *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

**"power"** [dunamis] dynamite ... Power is in the gospel

The foundation of the church is the gospel (Christ) Who is fully man, fully God, and Lord of all.

3. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ over the Church

4. Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of His Church

## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

**“Pragmatism”** – Focuses on results only. Defines what is right or wrong by what APPEARS to be good or helpful.

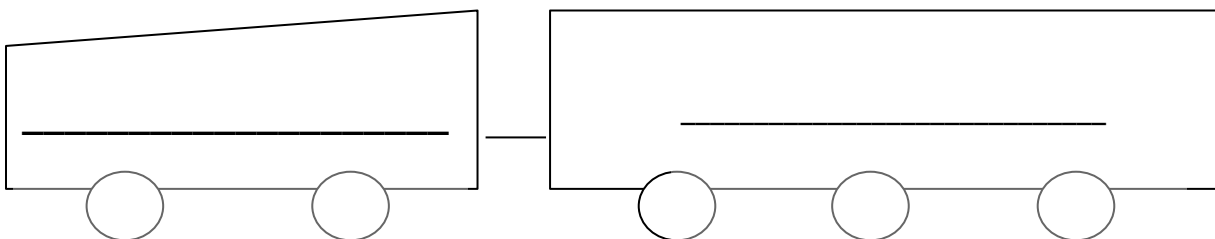
Biblical truth is not determined by testing what "works" and what doesn't.

- The gospel does not often produce positive results.
- Satanic lies and deception often appear effective.
- Majority reaction is no test for validity and prosperity is no measure of truthfulness.

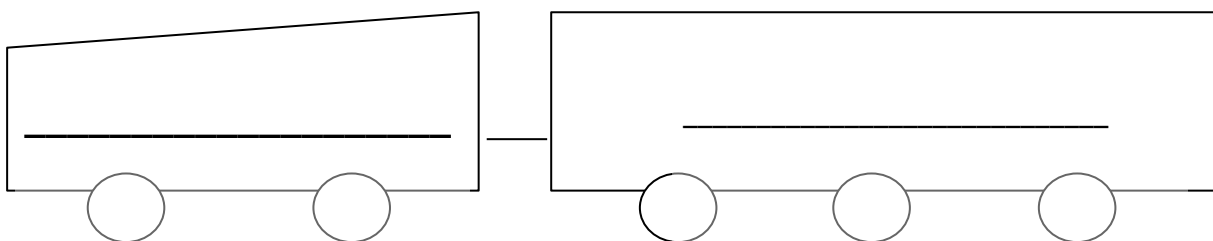
Pragmatism as a guiding philosophy of ministry is inherently flawed and a satanic strategy.

Revelation 3:1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Pragmatism puts methodology ahead of theology.



The Biblical order.



## CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

### What do we do when culture doesn't want God's Word?

2 Timothy 4:3–4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 4:1–2 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Pragmatism will produce \_\_\_\_\_ success, but only by following God's ways in His Word will we see genuine \_\_\_\_\_ success.

**ANSWERS:** supernatural, incapable, spiritually dead, draw, sovereignty, human, foundation, correct gospel, authority, Builder, Lord, Methodology, Theology, Theology, Methodology, human, godly