

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT PT 21
Fall Growth Group Notes Week 1
PASTOR BOB RICE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Main Text: Matthew 16:13-19

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you

bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Ephesians 4

⁴ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in ^[c]you all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Review:

1. We are fallen creatures, living in a fallen world.
2. Man can be reconnected to God and experience true success in life through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus death and resurrection is the sole legal basis by which man can achieve eternal life.

- The believer has a positional right standing with God that can't be altered.
3. The summary of the Christian life/style is living out in time and space our positional right standing with God.
 4. Our new purpose in Christ is to bear much fruit.
 5. We do not live out our lives attempting to glorify God unopposed!
 - We have an enemy who is in all-out war against us.
 - We are armed and dangerous, commanded to fight and guaranteed victory if we use "the power of his might."

Lesson Notes:

Church 101
The Introduction of the Church.

1. **We are not alone in this Christian life. We are members of an eternal, universal family called the Church of Jesus Christ.**
 - The Christian life is designed by God to be lived in community.
Two proofs from the life of Christ:
 - The Lords' prayer
 - The Lords' disciples
 - We are members of the body of Christ.
 - From God's vantage point; The body of Christ and our place in it is the central context of every believer's life, not an optional add-on.

2. **The church is exclusively for people who believe that Jesus is the Christ. Matthew 16:13-16**

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3. The Church is an organized structure built by Christ on Christ. Matthew 16:18a

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

4. The Church is eternally victorious and absolutely indestructible. Matthew 16:18b

and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

5. The Church is based on a powerful leadership structure passed down from Christ himself, continuing until Christ returns. Matthew 16:19

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

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Questions:

1. From Sunday's Sermon, was there a particular point, comment, or scripture that caught your attention or challenged you?

2. Is Church an optional activity for believers? If not, then what role should it play in the life of the believer?

3. What two proofs from the life of Christ give evidence for the importance of doing the Christian life together? Why are these proofs compelling?

4. Is Church membership for everyone in the world or is it an exclusive group? Why?

5. Is the Church organized or just a loose gathering of believers who get together?

6. Where was the church first mentioned in the bible? What was the context? From this passage do you gather that it is important to Jesus? Why or why not?

7. What did Jesus mean when he said that the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church?

8. What are the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven? Who possess them? How did they get them?

9. What did Jesus mean by binding and loosing? Give some examples of how it might be exercised today?
