

# The Church's One Foundation

Following the apostle Peter's confession, the Lord Jesus Christ promised, "...On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18). The spiritual construction of the church is founded upon the truth that Jesus is the Christ - the Anointed One - and the Son of the living God. Obviously, prior to Jesus' death on the cross, He had plans to establish His church.

What God has accomplished in Christ Jesus is according to His eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:11). The church was and is an intricate part of God's eternal purpose (v. 10). The apostle Paul was sent out to preach the riches of Christ and "the fellowship of the mystery" (v. 9). What is the fellowship of the mystery? "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel" (v. 6). Jesus reconciles both Jew and Gentile to God in one body through the cross (Ephesians 2:16). The one body of the reconciled is the body of Christ, which is His church (Ephesians 1:22, 23).

Members of the household of God have been built "on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20). To build on any other foundation is to build on the unstable and insecure sands of human reasoning and philosophy. Paul warned, "... But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 3:10, 11). The right foundation of the church, which Jesus built and God purposed, is Christ Jesus our Lord. This foundation has been made known to men through the revelation of the gospel of Christ by the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5).

Jesus taught that anyone who hears His word and does not do it is like a foolish man who builds a house on the sand (Matthew 7:26). He also taught that to reject His words is to reject Him (John 12:48). The one foundation of the church is Christ and His teaching. A person cannot rightly build on Christ without abiding in His word (John 8:31; II John 9). His word is the gospel, which is God's power unto salvation.