

St. Matthew AME Church
Bible Study
November 15, 2010

St. Matthew 16: 13-20

Peter: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (16:16)

Reveals two things about Jesus

1. Recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. The one who was to reign over the throne of His Father, David, forever.
2. Recognizes the divinity of Jesus. "Very God of Very God" Son of God Jesus is God. If He was not God, His death would have been like everybody else's death. Salvation is God's work from the beginning to the end.

Jesus: "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (16:18)

What did Jesus mean by "this rock"?

1. Peter and the Apostles – Paul described the church as built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Himself as the chief cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:20)
2. Peter's confession is the rock – the faith that was expressed by Peter was the rock upon which He would build His church. He did not say Peter, for it was not man upon which the church would be built, but upon his faith.
3. Christ is the rock. Peter's name "petros". Masculine noun meaning "rock or stone." Peter's Hebrew name Cephas also means "rock." Jesus used the feminine form of the same word, "petra" which means "bed rock" or "foundation rock." Idea is that Peter is a little stone or pebble, but Jesus is the foundation on which the church is built.

Peter refers to this himself in Acts 4:8-12 and I Peter 2:4-8

Church – not building

"Body of Christ" and "Community of believers"

Build by "saving souls", winning believers, witnessing, evangelism, Christian Education

"Gates of hell shall not prevail against it – not church coming up against gates of hell, but the gates of hell will not be able to stand against the church"