

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Peter Not the Pope

The Catholic contention that the apostle Peter was the first pope is only an attempt at justification. At Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:18-19), Jesus told Peter; “Upon this rock I will build my church.” The word “Peter” in the original is Petros, which means a little rock that can be pushed about or thrown. At that time, Peter was such a character. In his early ministry, he denied the Lord. It was hard for Peter to “stay put.” Even after quite a bit of Christian growth, he wavered in the face of Jewish opposition at Antioch. Certainly, the Lord would not have built His church on such a shaky foundation.

The Solid Foundation

In the statement, “Upon this rock I will build my church,” Jesus uses the word which is Petra in the original. This means a solid rock—a rock that cannot be moved. Peter was not that kind of rock. Jesus here makes a contrast. In contrast to the small, shaky stone, Jesus will build His church upon a solid ledge. It is such a solid foundation that no power on earth can shake it. No man can ever become that solid, even though he should have years of growth in grace and the knowledge of the truth.

What Was It?

What was this foundation upon which Jesus said He would build His church? It was a fact, which is the confession that Peter had made, that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” With that fact established, the church is on solid rock; it is on shifting sand without that fact. If Jesus were not the Christ, there would be no foundation for the church, but the foundation is secure since He is the Christ. No power can shake it.

No Successor for Peter

If Peter had been the foundation of the church and it had been the Lord’s will to have successor, the successor would have been provided. Still, the fact is that several generations passed without anybody even claiming to be a successor to Peter. Peter was dead, and the church had no supreme head on earth. There may have been men who wanted it, but the force of conviction in the churches was that no man would dare to try it. Finally, after ecclesiasticism had taken firm root and the church had split into the Greek or Eastern Church and the Roman or Western Church, a claimant arose to be the head of it. After the claimant arose and set himself up, the Roman church objected strenuously. John the Faster was condemned by the whole Western Church for his ungodly ambitions to rule the church, but his ambitions were hardly cold before Hildebrand at Rome put himself in the saddle and proclaimed himself the head of the church.

Some Justification Attempted

Such a ribald and un-Christian usurpation of power was nauseating even to the apostate church at Rome. It took quite a deal of pushing, pulling and politicking to put it

over. Still, the pope's throne was unsteady. Finally, an inventive ecclesiastic hit upon the idea that Peter was the first pope and that this grand usurper was his successor. It was all an invention to justify personal ambition and pride. Of course, after the first pope had established himself, he had a successor in every generation and sometime there were rival claimants for the throne and the rivalry was settled by murder. This succession of popes is sordid history and now the claim is made that Peter is the first one. Peter lived and died a good man and humble servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is absolutely no evidence that he had any such ambition characterized by the un-worthies who claim to be his successors. It should be understood by all that the claim is just a travesty upon Peter, a good and faithful servant of the Lord.

Batsell Baxter

Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Carolyn Siler in the loss of her sister, **Glenda McMillan**, last Sunday, July 3rd in Ballinger, TX. Glenda's service was scheduled for Saturday, July 9th.

Response

Jr. Munoz responded to the invitation last Sunday morning. He came forward asking for prayers to help him become a better father, grandfather, and Deacon. And, as a former Marine, he knows he needs to be a better leader and example for others. Jr. doesn't want his physical ailments to be an excuse for not doing all he knows he could and should do.

Prayer Request

Paul Gunn has requested prayers as he is going through a difficult time health wise.

Ashley Carson, Julia York and Rudy and Emma Ochoa all have the Covid virus. And, **Hannah Weakland** who has been exposed to the covid.

Concerns Update

Hattie Gilmore was taken to Madison Medical Resort on July 1st for physical therapy. She is in Room #317.

John Wood was taken to Encompass Rehab in Midland on June 30th to begin his physical therapy. He was ready for rehab.

Bruce and Trina Plyer both were in the hospital last week; Bruce for diabetes and Trina underwent kidney surgery on July 1st. Her surgery went well. She was expecting a brief stay in the hospital. Bruce & Trina live in Mineral Wells.

Vickie Ryan will continue to have tests run to see why her blood is thick. The tests that have been done so far have come back okay.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Maria Anaya; Mary Anchondo; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Mildred Lee; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Richard Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Reda Sowell; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Ronda Lyne; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Knowledge “Paul Slept Here”

Paul slept in Lydia’s house when he was in Philippi. (Acts 16:14-15)

Events

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Differing Paths

As we consider, personally, the choices we make day by day, we should recall the words of our Lord, “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much” (Luke 16:10). The small things in our lives can well lead to big changes, either for good or for evil. This principle extends to congregations, as well.

Frequently, an emphasis on doctrinal exactness is greeted with a roll of the eyes. Why should we, after all, be concerned over small departures here and there? Isn’t it just nit-picking to question everything that doesn’t measure up to the truths we understand from Scripture? We should be concerned about apostasy, even in the smallest measure, because it is a step down a path which will end in destruction. Every heresy that has divided the church began with a small departure from the truth, which lead to greater and greater departures over time.

Our fellowship must stand firm on the inerrancy of scripture, the total truth and authority of God’s Word. We must stand firm in attempting to understand and follow the pattern of faith and practice outlined in the Bible. Most centrally, we must stand firm in teaching the exclusive truth of God’s way of salvation through Jesus Christ. The slightest deviation in our commitment to these basic truths will plunge the church into all manner of false teaching.

When Christian teachers and preachers depart from a complete confidence in Scripture, they stand in danger of losing their faith altogether. When congregations begin introducing unauthorized elements into the worship and work of the church, there is no end to the changes which will occur. When the church begins fellowshiping outsiders as if they were members of the Lord’s church, soon the very heart of the Gospel is laid aside. Constant vigilance is needed to keep the Lord’s church true to the Lord’s way.

– Gregory Alan Tidwell

July 10, 2022

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Bill Ryan
Jacob Carson
Don Easlon

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Jacob Carson
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Isaiah Armendarez
Oliver Hernandez
Bill Ryan

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading

Craig Wesson
David Ryan
Tom Sorenson
Steve Easlon

Jon Roemisch
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646—*Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725—*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Steven Easlon 269-0727 — *Collections:* Steve Easlon

Sunday AM

“Full Atonement”
(Hebrews 9:11-15)

Sunday PM

“Change of Attitude”
(1Thessalonians 4:16-22)

Our Records

Bible Class... 59
Morning Worship...95
Evening Worship ...51
Wednesday...56
Contribution...\$5,789.25