

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WEEK OF SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025

Announcements	Todd Webb
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SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS

North Side	Barbara White/Carolyn Mason
South Side	Derek/ Angie Crawford

SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR

Ricky Davis	Jere Whitson
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MORNING WORSHIP

Adult Bible Class Prayer	Todd Webb
Song Leader	Joel Knight
First Prayer	Al Beatty
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Jay Whitson
Closing Prayer	Ricky Davis

Evening Worship

Song Leader	Jay Whitson
First Prayer	David Allen
Scripture	Levi Swallows
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord's Table	Joel Knight
Closing Prayer	Jonathan Whitson

Wednesday January 8, 2025

Song Leader	Enoch Knight
Scripture Reading	David Hitchcock
Devotional Talk	Joel Knight
Closing Prayer	Allen Cantrell

Wednesday Door Monitor

Jere Whitson

Jere Whitson is responsible for worship assignments. If you are going to be absent or need to request changes, please contact him.

Gospel Broadcast Supported
 Preaching the Gospel, Sunday 7:30 A.M. – Ch. 11

Important News:

2025 THEME

Jesus Built His Church

Matthew 16:16-19

Verse 18 : And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

THIS WEEK'S TEXTS

AM class-- 2 Timothy 4:1-5

AM sermon-- Matthew 16:13-19

PM sermon-- Ephesians 1:1-3

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SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 AM
 Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

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It Is Written

readthewordtoday.com

Volume XLV Thur. January 9, 2025 Number 1

Jesus Built His Church
 John Chowning

Our congregational theme for 2025 is “Jesus Built His Church”. Because of our location on the timeline of history, we can state this using the past tense verb “built”. At Caesarea Philippi--when Jesus first spoke the word “church” in His earthly ministry--He used the future tense: “I will build My church” (Mat. 16:18). Its existence on earth began in the first century A. D. after Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 2:47) and from that point in history onward, the use of the past tense (I.e., “built”) has been factually true and historically accurate.

Let’s consider each word in this simple declaration and note important, relevant truths connected to each part of this statement.

Jesus built His church. Joshua is the Hebrew equivalent for the Greek name “Jesus”. It means “Jehovah is salvation”. Because of the excellent role model Moses’ assis-

tant (Ex. 24:13) and successor (Deut. 31:14-23) Joshua was, many Jewish babies were given this honorable name. The firstborn son of Mary, however, was named Jesus because of the unique spiritual deliverance and victory He would provide for His people (Mat. 1:21). During His ministry, the incarnate Son of God was often identified as Jesus of Nazareth (Mark 1:24, 10:47).

Once He had fulfilled all things written about the Christ in the Law, Psalms, and Prophets, the inspired New Testament writers often and accurately refer to Him as Jesus Christ. And, since He has been given all authority in heaven and earth (Mat. 28:18) and has been exalted to God's right hand (Eph. 1:20-21), the inspired New Testament writers also refer to Him as the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' declaration that the gates of Hades (I.e., His death in which His spirit entered the Hadean realm) would not prevail against Him and thus prevent the building of His church is a most audacious claim. Like David in preparation for the building of the temple by Solomon, Jesus made provisions for the building of His church (I.e., the apostles) but the church itself was not constructed until after His death at Calvary. The existence of His church is a historical fact which is clear and compelling circumstantial proof of His resurrection and His deity. He was declared to be the Son of God with power by His resurrection (Rom. 1:4) and it is the fact that He is the Christ, the Son of God, which serves as the impregnable bedrock foundation of His church (Mat. 16:16, 18).

Jesus **built** His church. A carpenter by trade prior to His preaching ministry (Mark 6:3), Jesus was familiar with construction. Like any wise artisan, He knew that a house was only as good as its foundation (Mat. 7:24-27) and that inferior workmanship results in embarrassment and shame (2 Tim. 2:15).

It is interesting to note that the first time this verb (*oikodomeo*) is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament is in Genesis 2:22. Here, it is written: "And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made (I.e., built) He a woman..." Just as Adam's bride was built by God out of the material taken from his side, so Christ's bride--the church--was created from the redeeming blood which flowed from His side. And, just as God made the perfect counterpart and companion for the first Adam, He has built the perfect counterpart and bride for the last Adam.

As noted above, the past tense verb "built" is historically accurate. Jesus' construction of His church was initiated in the first century after His resurrection and every spiritual asset needed for its establishment and continual perpetuation was once for all time delivered in the faith, the written New Testament. Because of the imperishable nature and power of God's word to purify souls when penitent believers obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22) and because those saved by Christ's blood are added by Him to His church (Acts 2:47), it is Biblically accurate to also talk of Jesus building His church in every generation, including ours. (Because the New Testament verb "edify" is the same Greek word Jesus used in Matthew 16:18

Jesus built **His** church. Just as Adam had a wife--built by God--which belonged exclusively to him, so Christ has a church which is uniquely and exclusively His. Each member wears His name by calling him/herself a "Christian" (1 Pet. 4:16). Every congregation of His church wears His name by identifying themselves as "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16).

Jesus built His **church**. This building is a spiritual, not a physical structure. Every person born again spiritually by the incorruptible seed of God (1 Pet. 1:23) through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) is a living stone in Christ's spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). NEVER in the New Testament is this house used in reference to a denominational organization. NEVER in the New Testament is this bride of Christ used to refer to a harem of denominational wives. The vile taproot of denominationalism is that Jesus is some sort of spiritual polygamist. This is obscenely filthy and repulsively gross.

Jesus promised to build His church, and He kept His promise. A year of careful study and rich spiritual truths await us.

ILLNESSES

Kim Chowning, remains at home recovering from left knee replacement and improving daily.

Jim Scarlett, had a fall recently and broke his hip.

Lizzie Dixon, granddaughter of John and Kim Chowning, has pneumonia at this time.

Betty Reed, is at home not feeling well.

Earlene Qualls, is at home with the flu.

Ron Gilbert, is in the local hospital with pneumonia.

Rheagan and Jolee Whitson, are at home with the flu. Leslie, their mom is also not feeling well at this time.

SYMPATHY

Gary Wyatt, passed away last Wednesday at Heritage Pointe, visitation will be 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, January 5th and his memorial service will be at 3 p.m. at Hooper, Huddleston, and Horner Funeral Home.

Please continue to pray for the families of Brenda Allen, Pat Eaves, and Daniel Loftis in their passing.

PANTRY ITEM:

Canned Tuna

EXTENDED ILLNESS

Bonnie Stockton, Jerry Vincent, Carol Meadows, Junior and Lou Bryant, Ora Lee Whitaker, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, and Bill and Betty Barnes.

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Jere Whitson
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