

8/21/11

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know and believe in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God, so that we may boldly confess Him and build our lives and Your Church on Him; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Romans 11:33---12:8

*(We cannot repay God, but we can use His gifts.)*

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 16:13-20

*(Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ. Jesus talks about building HIS Church.)*

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

13 VEIqw.n de. o` VIhsou/j eivj ta. me,rh Kaisarei,aj th/j Fili,ppou hvrw,ta tou.j maqhta.j

aúvtou/ le,gwn\ ti,na le,gousin oi` a;nqrwpoi ei=nai to.n ui`o.n tou/ avnqrw,pouÈ

And having gone into the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, saying, "Who do men say the son of man to be?"

14 oi` de. ei=pan\ oi` me.n Vlwá,nnhn to.n baptisth,n( a;lloi de. VHli,an( e[teroi de. Vleremi,an h' e[na tw/n profhtw/n

And they said, "Some (say) John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 le,gei aúvtou/j\ u`mei/j de. ti,na me le,gete ei=naiÈ

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 avpokriqei.j de. Si,mwn Pe,troj ei=pen\ su. ei= o` cristo.j o` ui`o.j tou/ qeou/ tou/ zw/ntoj

And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 avpokriqei.j de. o` Vlhsoú/j ei=pen aútw/\| maka,rioj ei=( Si,mwn Bariwna/( o[ti sa.rx kai. ai-ma ouvk avpeka,luye,n soi avlV o` path,r mou o` evn toi/j ouvranou/j

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you Simon, son of John. Because flesh and blood did not reveal (this) to you, but my Father who is in heaven."

18 kavgw. de, soi le,gw o[ti su. ei= Pe,troj( kai. evpi. tau,th| th| pe,tra| oivkodomh,sw mou th.n evkklhsi,an kai. pu,lai a[|dou ouv katiscu,sousin aúth/j

katiscu,sousin overcome / prevail against, be against

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

19 dw,sw soi ta.j klei/daj th/j basilei,aj tw/n ouvranw/n( kai. o] eva.n dh,sh|j evpi. th/j gh/j e;stai dedeme,non evn toi/j ouvranou/j( kai. o] eva.n lu,sh|j evpi. th/j gh/j e;stai lelume,non evn toi/j ouvranou/j

I shall give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. And whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

20 to,te diestei,lato toi/j maqhtai/j i[na mhdeni. ei;pwsin o[ti aúto,j evstin o` cristo,j

Then he commanded the disciples that they say to no one that he is the Christ.



INTRO - Something has happened in our neighborhood recently. New homes are being built again. There is one around the corner from us. There's one down the street. There are a couple of others going up in the area. It always seems that it takes quite a while to clear the lot, lay the utilities, and get the foundation in. Once that happens, though, the walls and roof, the doors and windows go up rather quickly. You and I both know that the reason the foundation seems to take longer is that without a good foundation, the rest of the house has troubles. Big troubles.

I. Jesus talks about a foundation for the church in our lesson for today.

A. Jesus is having time away with His disciples.

1. Last week we heard about him along the Sea of Galilee. Now He is in another region, Caesarea Philippi. As He is teaching His disciples he asks, "**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**"

2. After some answers from others, we are told that Peter says, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

3. Jesus' response to Peter talks about building, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**"

B. This may sound like a story we have heard before that might mean that Peter knew the answer to Jesus' test.

1. But Jesus is telling His disciples something they didn't realize how much they would need to know.

2. Jesus is giving practical advice for the church today.

3. The solid foundation on which God's Church is built is the foundation of Jesus as the Christ, the Savior. The firm foundation is Jesus as the Son of God.

C. Jesus is speaking not just for the church on earth, or for St. John, but for each of us today.

1. The church is made up of people. And the best place for people to build their lives is also on Jesus.

2. Recent statistics have shown that people who pray together are more likely for their marriage to last, than when people do not. Families are best built on Jesus as Savior and Lord.

3. When a person lives as a child of God, being honest, working hard, they make the best employees. The best place to start building a career is on Jesus.

4. When a person builds their life plans with God's plans in mind, then even when trials and pains arise there is strength to deal with the difficulties. The best place to build a life is on Jesus, "**the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

II. About 15 or 20 years ago some of our members lost their homes. They were nice homes, and even seemed to have good foundations, but the homes were built along the Matanuska River. The river changed its course and cut into the bank along which

the homes were built. The homes were lost. They thought the foundations were good, but ultimately they were not and the whole home was lost. You see, sometimes people build their lives on a foundation that is not Jesus, and don't even realize it.

A. Next week's lesson shows that even though Peter knew the right answer in his head, his heart trusted in and hoped for something other than Jesus. He didn't know He was hoping and trusting ultimately for something other than Jesus.

B. That can happen in the church. Martin Luther worked to bring people back to Jesus as Savior and Lord, as the Scriptures say, when the church of his day was trusting in men rather than God, in good works rather than in Jesus as Savior. I am sure that the people leaders of the church did not want to build on the wrong foundation, but they did.

C. It can happen for Christians today when we build on anything other than the confession, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

1. How many times have you heard something like, "I am a pretty good person, God will take me to heaven."? That trusts ourselves rather than Jesus as Christ.
2. How many times have you heard, "I just can't believe Jesus is the only way to heaven."? That trusts our wisdom, rather than Jesus as Savior and Lord.
3. How many times have you heard, I know what the commandment says, but that was for other times. That trusts something other than the wisdom and love of God.
4. It is so easy to miss that we are trusting the wrong thing.

III. This week I was asked a question on computer by a friend from Florida. He asked me, "What do you do when you are in over your head?" What do you think? Truthfully, as we look at life and it's challenges, we are always in over our head. It is beyond our wisdom, our righteousness, our strength. We just don't know it, or want to admit it. That is why we need Jesus, He is ". . . **the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

A. For the Jews the Word Christ meant Messiah or Savior.

1. Jesus is the Christ, our Savior.
2. When we face a life full of trouble because of our sin, because of our trust in anything but Him, He has taken our sin on Himself. Jesus got in the way of our trouble so we can be saved to live with God.
3. Do you see why it is Jesus we trust in?

B. To say Jesus was "**the Son of the living God.**" meant that He was the All Powerful God Himself.

1. The world and its trouble is stronger than we are. We are always "in over our heads." But this world's troubles are not stronger than God Himself.
2. When Jesus comes to help us, to save us, to forgive us, to give us life,

He is stronger than sin and death and the troubles of life.  
C. That is why the foundation on which we want to build, not just our words, but God's church and our lives is **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

CONCLUSION - In 1964 there were many houses built on good foundations. But, the great earthquake was stronger than many of those homes. Life can be like that, trusting in any foundation other than Jesus is trouble. But, when we know in our heads, and trust in our heart, and live in our lives that Jesus is **"the Christ, the Son of the living God."** life can hit us anyway, and God is there to save us and help us through Jesus.

Prayers

Thanks -

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Grief

. Bob Thomas

Ill

- . Deo Keil - Lung CA
- . Jerry and Aedene Arthur
- . Joe Maddy
- . Lyla Cornelius
- Vi Folsom
- Thomas Sullivan
- **LeRoy Jenson**
- Anna Mae Shackelford
- Others . . . on our hearts and minds

COUNTRY

- 
- Safety for those Serving in Harm's Way  
Andrea Falkenburg

Church

- . Persecuted Christians