

Peter and the Rock

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 16.

B. Jesus names Simon Peter and says He will build the church upon this rock.

II. Opinions of the people.

A. The context is Caesarea Philippi where the people worshipped the god Pan.

B. Some of the people said that Jesus was John the Baptist reincarnated.

C. Others thought Jesus was Elijah. (Malachi 4:5-6)

D. Others claimed that Jesus was Jeremiah or one of the prophets because Jesus was sorrowful over His people and there was a prediction that Jeremiah would bring out the Ark of the Covenant at the coming of the kingdom.

E. Not one opinion said that Jesus was Messiah. Jesus is unique--never was He to be in a list among others.

III. Confession of Peter.

A. When Jesus asked all the disciples who they thought He was, Peter responds by saying He is the Messiah. We need to have the same expectation as the Jews did for a savior.

B. Peter says that Jesus is the Son of the living God.

C. Peter is called blessed because of his insight.

1. He did not come to this conclusion by his own brain--it was revealed to him.

2. Christianity is logical, but one does not win person to the faith through logic.

IV. Weapon of Peter.

A. Christ established the church.

B. The church is held accountable for what is taught. (I Corinthians 5)

C. The rock is....

1. Not Peter. There is a change from the second person to the third person. Two different words are used for rock. Out of seventy-seven of the church fathers only 17 refer to Peter as the rock. Even if Peter was the rock, this does not mean one accepts Roman Catholicism--one still has to prove that his authority was in Rome and that his authority was transferable.

2. Not the apostles. The singular would not be emphasized in Matthew 16 if this were the case. (Ephesians 2:19-20)

3. Christ. This maintains a distinction between the two words for rock. The rock just does not look at the confession--rock is used for God frequently in the Bible. Peter calls Jesus the rock. (I Peter 2:7-8)

D. The gates of hell will not prevail against this rock, Christ.

1. We shall overcome.

2. Jesus Christ is a rock--He will be either a stone of stumbling or a stone of foundation.

Application questions:

1. How do the ideas of the world about Christ compare to some of the ideas posited about Him during His time?

2. Which argument for the "rock" do you find most convincing? Why?

3. How should a believer respond to a church that rarely talks about Christ? Explain.
