# SCRIPTURE READING

# MATTHEW 16: 13 – 19

v13. **NOW WHEN JESUS CAME INTO THE DISTRICT OF CAESEREA PHILLIPI, HE WAS ASKING HIS DISCIPLES,"WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?".**

V14. **AND THEY SAID , "SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST; AND OTHERS, ELIJAH; BUT STILL OTHERS, JEREMIAH, OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS."**

v.15. **HE SAID TO THEM, "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"**

V.16. **SIMON PETER ANSWERED, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."**

MATTHEW 16:13-16 (NASB, 1999)

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v17. “**AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, “BLESSED ARE YOU, SIMON BARJONA, BECAUSE FLESH AND BLOOD DID NOT REVEAL THIS TO YOU, BUT MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.**

V18. **I ALSO SAY TO YOU THAT YOU ARE PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HADES WILL NOT OVERPOWER IT.**

v.19. **I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; AND WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH SHALL HAVE BEEN BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL HAVE BEEN LOOSED IN**

MATTHEW 16: 17 – 19 (NASB, 1995)

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# WHO & WHAT IS THE CHURCH

## "UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH OF GOD"
## SERMON # 1 OF 5

CLIC @FEDERATION UNIVERSITY, BERWICK

1ST FEBRUARY 2026

# MATTHEW 16: 13 – 16 (NASB, 1999)

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# “YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD”

UPON THIS ROCK,

- I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH

- I WILL GIVE YOU THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- **HERE WAS CHRIST’S INSTRUMENT ON EARTH**
- **WHATEVER WAS DONE IN HIS WILL WOULD HAVE ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE**

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# CRUCIAL LESSONS ABOUT THE CHURCH




# THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING



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# A LOCAL CHURCH IS NOT A LOCATION OR A BUILDING

IT IS NOT A PEOPLE WHO SUBSCRIBE TO A PARTICULAR ETHIC OR A PARTICULAR PHILOSOPHY.

NEITHER IS IT A PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN RELIGION OR ORGANISATION.

IT IS NOT A PLACE TO BAPTISE PEOPLE, MARRY OR BURY POPLE

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A LOCAL CHURCH IS NOT
AN ORGANIZATION BUT
AN ORGANISM

# A CHURCH IS PEOPLE

IT IS A GATHERING OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE
EXPERIENCED THE MIRACLE OF A CHANGED HEART

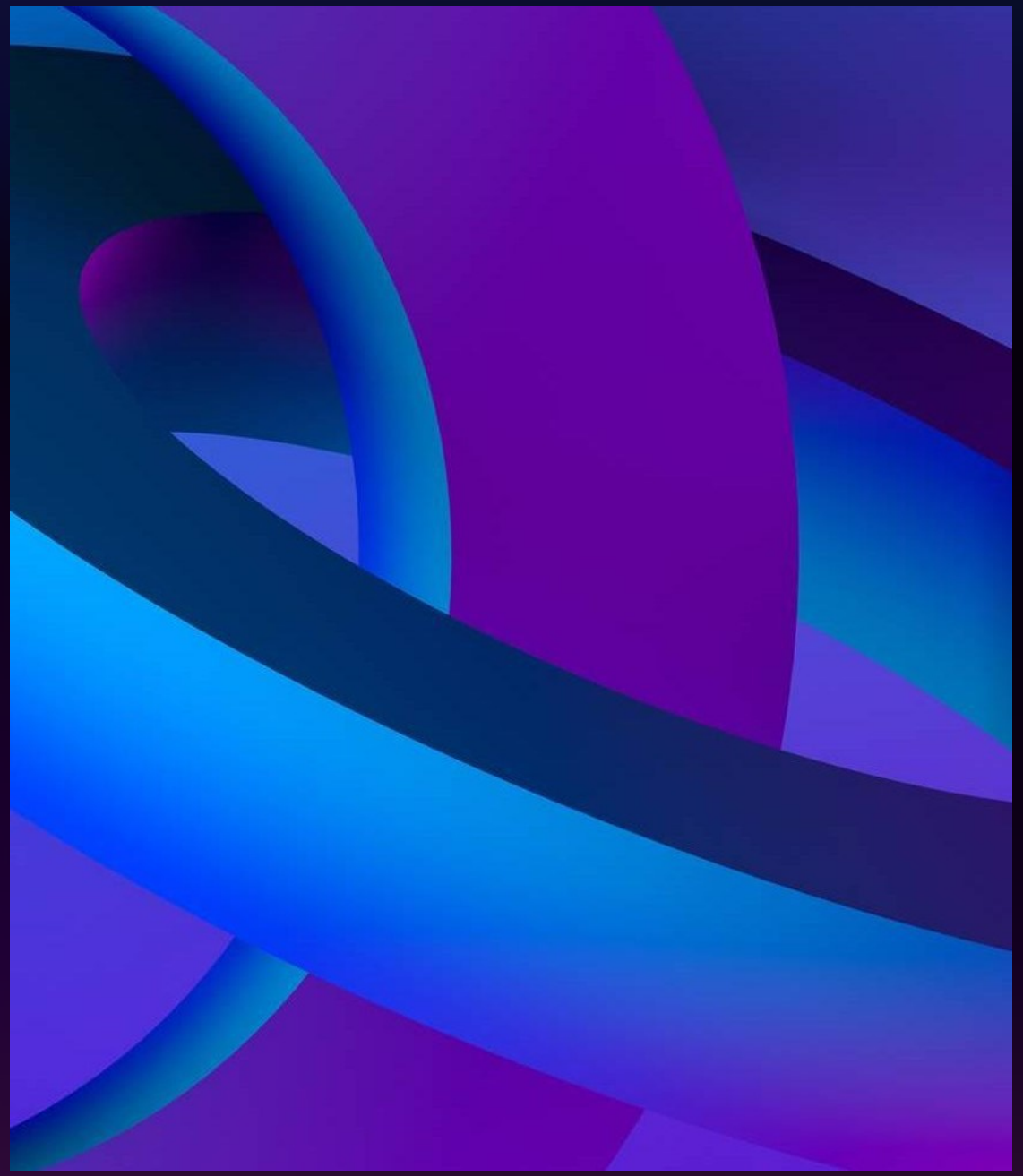
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A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD.

# NOT A BUILDING BUT A NEW COMMUNITY

- IN THE NEW TESTAMENT,
NO ONE SAID ‘LET’S GO TO CHURCH”

- THE GREEK WORD USED BY JESUS AS “CHURCH”
DOES NOT REFER TO A STRUCTURE,
BUT
A GATHERING OF CALLED-OUT PEOPLE



# EKKLÉSIA

ASSEMBLY,
MEETING,
CONGREGATION

LIT.
A “CALLING OUT”

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# A PEOPLE WITH A UNIQUE IDENTITY:

- ONCE ALIENATED,
  NOW RECONCILED
- ONCE WITHOUT GOD,
  NOW GRANTED ACCESS TO HIM
- ONCE STRANGERS TO ONE ANOTHER,
  NOW ONE NEW MAN

(EPHESIANS 2: 13 -16 )

# A PEOPLE WITH A NEW IDENTITY:

- MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST
- A NEW CREATION
- FORGIVEN OF THEIR SINS
- ADOPTED AS GOD'S SONS
- ONCE STRANGERS, NOW FAMILY

(JEREMIAH 33; 31 – 34; 2 COR. 5:17; EPHESIANS 1: 7, 13, 22; ROMANS 8:15; )




# **THE** CHURCH IS MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF PEOPLE



# MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF PEOPLE

- WHEN PETER MADE HIS CONFESSION, JESUS ANNOUNCED THE CHURCH

- WHEN WE REPENT & CONFESS WHO CHRIST IS, WE BECOME MEMBERS OF HIS COMMUNITY

- THE CHURCH IS **A NEW SOCIETY** POINTING THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM TO COME; IT IS **A BODY** WITH ALL ITS DIFFERENT PARTS; IT IS **THE COMMUNITY OF THE REDEEMED**; IT IS **A HOLY NATION**; IT IS **A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**.



# THE CHURCH BELONGS TO GOD



# WHO OWNS THE CHURCH?

- DOES THE SENIOR PASTOR OR THE LEADERS?
- DOES THE CONGREGATION?
- DO YOU SEEK YOUR IDENTITY IN CHURCH POSITIONS?

- WHERE WERE WE WHEN GOD CREATED HIS CHURCH?

- WE LIVE, BREATHE & SERVE AT HIS PLEASURE. WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF **GOD'S INSTRUMENT FOR THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND.**

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A REDEEMED COMMUNITY

# CALLED AS GOD'S BRIDE

A CHOSEN COMMUNITY

# HIGHLY VALUED BY GOD



# THE CHURCH WILL TRIUMPH



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# "THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE CHURCH"

**JESUS PROMISE IS**

**AN ASSURANCE**

**TO HIS PEOPLE**

**THE FORCES OF HELL HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED AGAINST THE CHURCH OVER THE CENTURIES.**

**THERE HAVE BEEN PRESSURES (BOTH INTERNAL & EXTERNAL), ABUSES & PERSECUTIONS**

**BUT THE CHURCH STILL PREVAILS – JESUS LOVES HIS CHURCH – IT IS HIS BODY & HE PROTECTS IT.**

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# “THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE CHURCH”

**JESUS PROMISE IS**
**A COMMISSION**
**TO HIS PEOPLE**

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE A HOLY PEOPLE**
**WHO WILL STAND**
**FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE NOW.**

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# JESUS CHRIST IS AT THE CENTRE OF THE CHURCH

**JESUS IS THE ONE AROUND** WHOM THE NEW COMMUNITY GATHERS

# JESUS CENTRAL POSITION

**IT IS HIS CHURCH & HE IS THE MASTER BUILDER (MATT. 16: 16-18)**

**HE IS THE SHEPHERD WHO CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE (JOHN 10: 1-4, 16, 27)**

**HE IS THE TRUE VINE IN WHOM THE CHUCH ABIDES (JOHN 15: 1 -15)**

**HE IS THE BRIDEGROOM WHO WILL COME FOR HIS BRIDE (EPHESIANS 5: 22-33)**

**HE IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS BODY (COL. 1:18, 2:19; EPH. 4:15, 5:23)**

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TWO IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH:

# THE ASSEMBLY HAS A UNIQUE ***IDENTITY*** & A UNIQUE ***AUTHORITY***

# MATTHEW 18: 15– 17 (NASB, 1999)

v15. **IF YOUR BROTHER SINS, GO AND SHOW HIM HIS FAULT IN PRIVATE; IF HE LISTENS TO YOU, YOU HAVE WON YOUR BROTHER.**

v16. **BUT IF HE DOES NOT LISTEN *TO YOU*, TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE WITH YOU, SO THAT BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**

v17. **IF HE REFUSE TO LISTEN TO THEM, TELL IT TO THE CHURCH; AND IF HE REFUSES TO LISTEN EVEN TO THE CHURCH, LET HIM BE TO YOU AS A GENTILE AND A TAX COLLECTOR**.

# "..TELL IT TO THE CHURCH..." (MATT.18: 17)

- IMPOSSIBLE TO APPLY THIS INSTRUCTION TO THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL

- THE INDIVIDUAL CHURCH MAY BE DEFINED AS THAT SMALLER COMPANY OF BELIEVERS WHO, IN ANY GIVEN COMMUNITY, ARE GATHERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S LAWS

(ACTS 14:23; ROMANS 16:5;1 COR. 1: 2;
1 COR. 4;17; 1 THESS. 2:14)

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# A PEOPLE WITH AUTHORITY:

EACH MEMBER OF THE CHURCH
HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO BECOME WHO THEY ALREADY ARE IN CHRIST BY WALKING IN A MANNER
WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL
(EPHESIANS 4:1)

**BEING LEADS TO DOING**

# THE CHURCH VISIBLE

# THE CHURCH INVISIBLE




CONCLUSION

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# TAKEAWAY:

NOT JUST INDIVIDUALS WITH SEPARATE VISIONS

BUT A PEOPLE WITH A CORPORATE IDENTITY

- THE PEOPLE OF GOD!

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A PEOPLE WILLING TO BE BUILT TOGETHER INTO ONE DIVINELY ORDAINED ORGANISM – THE BODY OF CHRIST

# THE LOCAL CHURCH

A CALLED-OUT PEOPLE

WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED

THE MIRACLE OF A CHANGED HEART &

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD.

# ACTS 2: 44 – 47 (NASB, 1999)

v44. **AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER AND HAD ALL THINGS IN COMMON.**

V45. **AND THEY BEGAN SELLING THEIR PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS AND WERE SHARING THEM WITH ALL, AS ANYONE MIGHT HAVE NEED,**

v.46. **DAY BY DAY CONTINUING WITH ONE MIND IN THE TEMPLE, AND BREAKING BREAD FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, THEY WERE TAKING THEIR MEALS TOGETHER WITH GLADNESS AND SINCERITY OF HEART,**

V.47. **PRAISING GOD AND HAVING FAVOUR WITH ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD WAS ADDING TO THEIR NUMBER DAY**

# SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- **DO YOU KNOW YOUR PLACE IN THE DWELLING OF GOD?**
- **ARE YOU WILLING TO ASSEMBLE FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP & TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION?**
- **ARE YOU WILLING TO BE BUILT TOGETHER INTO ONE GOD ORDAINED ORGANISM**

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION:**

**1 Corinthians 12: 12- 27**

**“BUT NOW GOD HAS PLACED THE MEMBERS, EACH ONE OF THEM, IN THE BODY, JUST AS HE DESIRED.”**

# ONE FINAL CONSIDERATION



# A PRESENT REALITY & A FUTURE HOPE

THE CHURCH IS NOT PERFECT YET
BUT IT IS GOD'S

THE BUILDING WORK IS NOT FINISHED YET
BUT CHRIST IS BUILDING IT

IT IS NOT COMPLETE
BUT ONE DAY THE BRIDE WILL BE READY AND SAY
"COME, LORD JESUS, COME!"

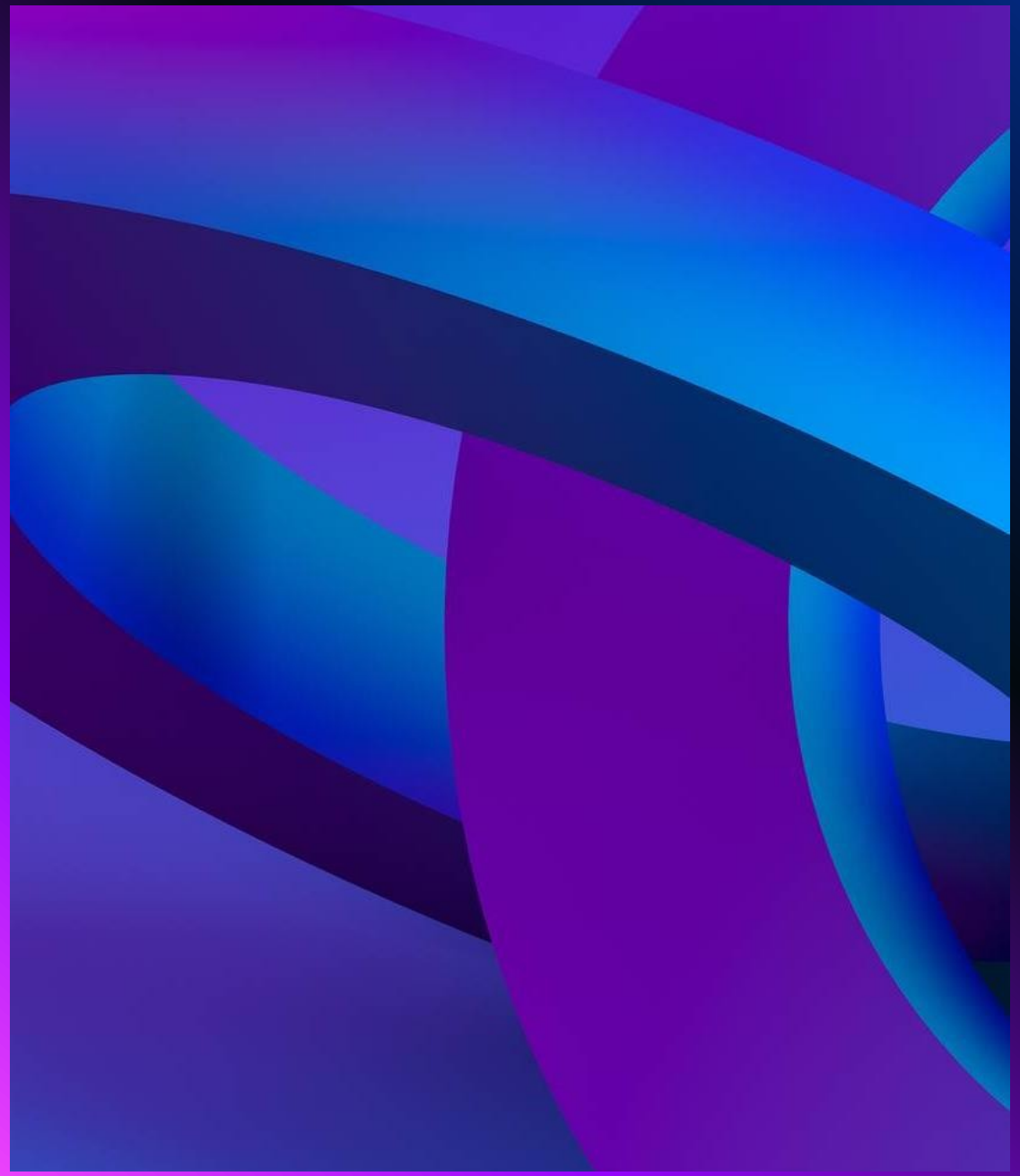
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KEY TAKEAWAY:

# THE LIFE OF FAITH IS LIVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

PETER F. JENSEN

ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY 2001-2013



# A PRAYER

**MAY WE LIVE LIVES WORTHY OF OUR CALLING AS THE COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.**

**MAY WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY, WALKING TOGETHER IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP.**

**MAY WE SERVE FAITHFULLY IN THE AREA TO WHICH WE ARE CALLED &  WHERE GOD HAS PLACED US IN HIS BODY**

**MAY WE SHINE BRIGHTLY MAKING**

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