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Jesus Is Building His Church

Matthew 16:13–20 (NIV) — **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 Messiah, the Son of the living God.**” **17** Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, 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 ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Central Thought: The local church, as bearers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is the hope of the world.

- ❖ **The Confessing Church** – We believe that Jesus is the unique son of God and the savior of the world.

John 3:16–17 (NIV) — **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (See also John 14:6)

- **Key word: Revelation** – We only come to know Christ as the savior by a revelation from God.

- ❖ **The Gathered Church** – Called together and built by Jesus to carry on his saving work in the world.

- **Key Word: Ekklesia (church):** An assembly of people – not a building – called together for a specific purpose.

- ❖ **The Empowered Church** – Given spiritual authority to overcome evil and open up heaven.

Mark 16:15–18 (NIV) — **15** He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18** they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (See also Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:19-23)

- **Key word: Hades - the place of the dead.**

John 10:10 (NIV) — **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Homework:

- ❖ Read the “See also” passages above.
- ❖ Make a resolution to read through the gospels to begin the new year.
- ❖ Ask God to help you know and trust Jesus more fully.