

Rededicate

(First Cutlerville's 125th Anniversary)
(September 30, 2018)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They 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?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus 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.

¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹I 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." (Matthew 16:13-19)

A. The Church is Christ's body. Jesus gives his Church a mission

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

1. We say "Going, bringing Jesus to people; Growing - discipling and equipping; (and) Blessing - serving God and others"

2. This happens through Christ's Church; through this church

B. Jesus' statement "*I will build my church*" gives optimism for the Church's future

1. The Church belongs to God. God is sovereign; Christ is Lord

2. Not even the power of death [Hades] will delay or stop Christ's Church

CHRIST

A. The Church has a future because its builder is Christ: "*I will build my Church*"

1. Jesus is in charge! The Church belongs to Christ

2. It is true of the universal Church; it is true of the local Church

3. Christ is the head of the Church; we seek his leading; we follow him

B. The Church has a future because Christ promised to "*build [His] Church*"

1. His promise involves each one of us

"We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9)

2. He uses each one of us together in the building of His Church

C. The Church has a future because Christ will build its members

"Like living stones, you are being build into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5)

"Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip the people for works of service so the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith..." (Ephesians 4:11)

"Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2)

CHALLENGES

A. Our culture is not only increasingly secular, it's becoming anti-Christian

B. Believers are increasingly looking like the world

C. The fields seem ripe for harvesting

D. The future of the world is in the hands of the local church

1. This not only provides us an opportunity to rededicate, it makes it urgent

a. Church will need to happen 24/7

b. Ministry will increasingly need to happen outside the church building

c. People will be watching us more closely before they attend/connect

d. Teaching and preaching will need to speak to the head and the heart

e. We'll need to offer rich fellowship, deep connection, superior care...

f. Leadership must be increasingly provided by a team

2. We'll need every one to invest their time, talents, testimony, and treasure

CERTITUDE

A. Jesus said, "*And the gates of Hades will not overcome it*"

1. The Gates of Hades (powers of death) are the powers set against God's work

2. The church can face the world and not be afraid; our victory is guaranteed

B. Did you catch the implication of this promise? It implies a moving church

COMMITMENT

A. This church has a promising future because Jesus is already in the future

B. We've been listening to God. We have a plan

C. We have the opportunity to come together; to rededicate ourselves to His Church; to offer him our time, training, experience, talents and resources

D. We need you!