

Visions and Revelations:
Message 13 — The Apostle Peter (4)

After hearing and considering the word that was spoken, a group of brothers and sisters were inspired by some of the verses that were shared. We felt that it was helpful to reconsider these verses again to dig deeper into the burden of the message and to discover how rich it could be to us. We compiled these verses into six sections, one for each day of the week until the next message, in hopes that many other saints could spend a bit of time every day to reconsider the burden of our brother in a new light. If anyone considers some of these verses or questions and feels enriched by them, we ask you to please leave a comment on the Church in Cleveland site under the message to share your thoughts! Thanks! Grace and peace be to all the saints!

Note: These six sections are not comprehensive of the content of the message! This is just designed to be a help to get into a portion throughout the days.

DAY 1

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 1:3

who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Philippians 3:20b-21

the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working [operation] by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Our Lord is so marvelous. Who is he? He is the creator of this whole world, He is the one who upholds the entire universe, and not only that He is the one who will inherit all things on earth and in heaven. Right now, He is the operating One and in His operation He dispenses more of Himself into us. Today Christ is still upholding everything in the world but, He is also inwardly dispensing His very life essence into us, into His church. Brothers and sisters, creation is marvelous, awesome right? The natural order we enjoy is very grand right? Today, the Lord is building His church! Today He is the builder, He is the potter and we are the clay (Isa 64:8). Brothers and sisters, can we allow the Lord to work on us today, to dispense His spirit into us so that we can become His church?

DAY 2

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The Lord spoke these precious words to Peter and today He would still say these same words to you and me. Jesus told Peter he was blessed because upon this rock (revelation of Christ), I will build my church. Revelation may seem like a spiritual mystical term but practically speaking, a revelation that we receive from Christ should lead us to see something more of the church. As such, we as many stones, today, are able to be a part of the building up of the church. Today the Lord is focused on building His church and He will keep building the Church until she has made herself ready (Rev 21:2). Brothers and sisters, do we see this? And if we do see this, do our lives match this? The Lord said He will build His church but what about us? I will get my degree, I will have a nice house, I will go somewhere where the weather is nice, I will have a good retirement. How about the Lord? This is a very sober matter, may the Lord have mercy on us and can we have a prayer that Lord, we would like to be a part of this building work, we want to see more revelation and we want a living that matches our seeing.

DAY 3

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

What is the church, really? The Greek word *ekklesia* is composed of three parts. *Ek*, *kaleo*, and *ia*. What does *ek* mean? It means being brought out of a realm. The church is produced by a group of people coming out of their original realm. It could be the sinful realm, the mature realm, the religious realm, the man-centered realm, the sin-centered realm, the enterprise-centered realm, even a realm of Christendom. To us, these realms can be positive or negative. I am in a realm of wine and drink. Or I am in a realm of living ethically towards my community and society. Regardless, the Lord would say, “Come out of it! There’s another realm to enjoy!” He calls us out of all these other realms that do not match Him and into a realm where we can have Christ Himself. Consider your average week. What “realm” are you living in? Does it match the calling you have received? Spend some time to pray for the grace and mercy to come out of any realm that’s not centered upon Christ.

DAY 4

Ephesians 1:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Colossians 3:10

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

The “*ek*” in “*ekklesia*” means we were called out from the realm we were in. This is marvelous, however, praise the Lord that it doesn’t end there! The second part, “-*kle-*” comes from the word “-*kaleo-*”, which means “to call for entering”. What do we enter into? “-*ia*”! This indicates the nature of the caller, Christ! We enter into Christ himself. When we enter into Him, there’s a change in our person. Our whole existence and our whole essence becomes Christ. We are no longer dwelling in our old realm, but we have entered a new realm. We have become part of Christ and not only that, but we have become one with Him! Let us praise the Lord today for calling us out of the world, and into his marvelous life!

DAY 5

Ephesians 1:22b-23

...Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2 Peter 1:4

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Galatians 3:27-28

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

What is the church? The church is more than a building, more than a specific teaching or ministry, and more than even an assembly of called-out people. The church is a heavenly entity in which the substance, essence, element, and nature is Christ Himself. As constituents of the church, we are those who have been called out of darkness (sin, self, religion, etc.) and now we

just have Christ. We belong to Him organically. We are the body of Christ. You have Christ? So do I. You have Christ as life? So do I. You love, exist, and testify of Christ? So do I. We are all in this marvelous entity. This is the church. We are not called out to a practice, a doctrine, or a ministry, but to Christ alone. To say the church belongs to a spiritual man's ministry is offensive to Christ. The Lord desires to gain us in this way, to be organically one with Him. May we give ourselves wholly to Him!

DAY 6

1 Corinthians 12:14-20

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Ephesians 4:15-16

*but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, **joined and knit together by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many." As Christians, we are members of the body of Christ. This isn't a membership that we have to pay into, but as believers we simply belong to the body. A finger is considered to be part of the body as much as a toe is. Similarly, each and every one of us has a unique function as members in the church. An important aspect of being a member is that there is a flow of life through us. We should be receiving life, and also dispensing life. This life can be from fellowshiping with other saints, or it can be directly from God himself, the source of all life. By allowing life to flow through us to other saints around us, we are properly operating as part of the body! Eventually, every member can become a blessing to the other members. We can even be a joint that knits together all the saints! We can become someone who is able to connect and support the other members of the body. This is what a healthy body looks like, each member of the church operating properly and filled with His life! I pray we can see the need the church has for all of us and that the Lord can reveal to us how to function as a member in the church.