

Visions and Revelations

Message 13: The Apostle Peter (4)—

The Revelation by Christ

¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And **I also** say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will** build **My** church” (Matthew 16:16-18a)

I. “**I also**” and “**I will**”

A. “**I also** say to you” indicates that besides the revelation given by the Father, there must also be the revelation given by Christ.

B. The revelation of Christ is “**I will**”

1. This indicates that the Lord Jesus Christ is not only the one who created, who upholds, and who is appointed heir (Heb. 1:2–3), but also the one who operates everything in God’s work.
2. Christ is not only the content of the divine economy but also the executor of the divine economy.

II. “**My** church”

Christ desires to obtain “stones” like the “rock” to build His church; this built church completely belongs to Him and not to any particular “stone.”

III. The marvelousness of the Church

A. “Church” in Greek is *ekklesia*, which consists of three parts:

1. *ek*—meaning “out of a realm,” indicating that the church is produced by a group of people coming out of their original realm, that is, the sinful realm, the material realm, the religious realm, the man-centered realm, the things-centered realm, the enterprise-centered realm (including the realm of Christendom). According to man, these realms can be valuable, ethical, or worthless, but God desires all of us to be *out of* all these realms.
2. *kaleo*—meaning “to call for entering,” so as to become a unique entity after being called out.
3. *ia*—indicating the nature of the caller, indicating that the church is being called out for the change of her position, her existence, her essence, and her belonging, to be an organic entity with Christ, the caller, as the essence, the element, the substance, and the person.
4. For this unique entity, the Brethren use the word, “assembly.” Other scholars have used the phrase, “called out congregation.” The majority of people use the word “church.” All of these translations refer to an entity—*ekklesia*. The Lord desires to gain all the people who belong to Him to become an organic entity called out unto Himself, an entity with Himself as the essence, the element, the substance, and the person.

- B. So, the Church is a group of people being called out of everything to only Christ alone, not a practice, not a theological doctrine, not a spiritual man's ministry.
- C. So, the Church is Christ. The believers are those who are called out to partake of Christ, His divine nature, His divine person, His divine being, and thus they become—
1. A member of the body of Christ;
 2. An organic life-receiver
 3. An organic life-dispenser
 4. A life operating and circulating part in the body for its building up according to his measure
 5. Growing to be a joint of supply, becoming a necessity for God's blessing, leading, operation, growth, and expansion.