

MORE Faith & Faith

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WHAT

IS THE

CHURCH

& the law of first mention.



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Hi Partners and Friends

We pray you are all doing well and stirred up about 2015. The Lord has put on our hearts the words prepare and preparation.

In Proverbs we see a number of verses that encourage us regarding our preparing and plans of preparation. In Prov. 21:5 we are told that the plans of the diligent guarantee to lead us to plenty. In Prov. 16:1 and 9 that it is our job to plan and prepare trusting the Lord to direct our steps because He has the answer.

Then in Prov. 21:31 the Spirit of God tells us that the horse is prepared for the day of battle but that our deliverance is from the Lord. In the Hebrew the word "prepare" is translated fit and ready and the word "day" is translated heat of the day. Also the word "battle" can be translated as fight, overcome and prevail. And finally the word deliverance can be translated as help and victory.

What does this mean to us? Well as we prepare and make ourselves fit and ready to do what God has asked us to do we are equipped to fight and overcome in the heat of the day (when satan attacks us and pressure and temptation comes to give up and disobey). We will prevail because the Lord is our help and by our preparation He is able to bring about the victory in our life and situation.

Glory to God - remember preparation time is never wasted time because God has an awesome and glorious plan already prepared for each of us. Let's not miss it by our lack of preparation but walk in and enjoy it by our working together with Him in our preparation.

We love you & God Bless
Jeff & Audrey



**Jeff Loewen
Ministries**

Proclaiming the Word of Faith unto Soteria - Rom. 10:8-13

What is the Church ... & the law of first mention?

As we move into spring and see everything coming back alive I would like us to look at the church and see the life that is in it and how privileged we are to be part of the church.

The law of the first mention reveals that the “meaning of that word when it is first mentioned is carried with it in each use afterwards.” So as we look at the first time the church is mentioned we will be able to gain insight into what God has for us today.

Let's read the scriptural passage starting in verse 13 of Matthew chapter 16 -

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Notice Jesus primed their thinking pump with a question about what others thought and then He brought it home by asking them “who do YOU say I am?” it is important to realize it makes no difference what others say or believe when it comes to our own life. What is important is what we believe and say about Jesus. He is to us what we believe and say He is. Let me say that more personally - He is to ME or YOU what I or YOU believe and say

He is. If we believe and say He is our Savior, the Way to God and heaven - then we are born again and heaven becomes our home. If we say He is our Healer then we receive our healing, our Peace then we receive peace, our Strength then we receive strength. If we believe and say He is our Provider then He is able to provide. If we don't believe or say these things then He can't be them to us. Therefore it is very important for us to get into the Word of God for ourselves and find out who He is to us, who we are *In Christ* and then believe it and begin to say it about ourselves to make it a reality in our lives. Peter answered Jesus by declaring Him to be the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) the Son of the living God.

Jesus responded to Peter's answer with three statements that reveal the core of who we are as the church.

First He said to Peter that he was blessed because he received revelation from God the Father. The blessing is a result of the Word of God. When we look at Gen. 1:28 we see that God blessed them saying - the blessing is a result of His Word.

Eph 1:3 says the God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. The word blessed in the Greek can also be translated "prospered." The word translated spiritual can also be translated non carnal or not of this earth. And the word blessings is translated from the word *Eulogia*, from which we get the word eulogy, which means fine speaking, benediction, declaring or speaking an abundant provision on us. In other words, God said He has blessed or prospered us who are in Christ, with every Word and declaration He has made from heaven. Jesus said His words are spirit and life, meaning they are not of this world.

The blessing or power to prosper is a result of the Word of God. As the church we have become partakers of this power. Any and all areas of our life that require blessing and prosperity is met by our hearing and doing the Word. This is how we got Born Again - we heard the Word and faith came (we believed it) and then we acted on it by confessing Jesus as our Lord. Our spiritual bankruptcy needed the blessing and when we gave our life to Jesus He prospered our spirit and we became a new creation according to 2 Cor 5:17.

This is one of the benefits of the law of first mention given to the church. We are supernaturally tied to the blessing through the

Word of God. We can enjoy all He has provided for us if we will take Him at His word.

We can only take Him at His word as we allow Him to reveal it to us. As we maintain an intimate fellowship with our God through prayer and reading His Word He is able to reveal to us His thoughts, ways and will for our lives. This revelation, revealed knowledge and wisdom of God is given to us by the Father through the Holy Spirit.

The second statement Jesus made was that “on this rock I will build My church.” Some people think Jesus was telling Peter that He was going to build the church on him - but this is not so. The Greek word translated Peter is *petros* which means a piece of rock (a stone that can be thrown or easily moved). Whenever we go down by the river it is time to skip rocks - that is an example of what *petros* is. By contrast the word rock is the Greek word *petra* which means a mass of rock (a type of sure foundation). It is large enough you can build a house on it because it is not going anywhere.

Peter is not the foundation of the church - it is “*this rock*” of revelation, of hearing from God, of intimacy and fellowship with our God as Father - which Jesus was referring to.

The church is the group of people God has chosen to be His family - this is the new idea and thought Jesus came to bring us. He said “I will build My church.” Jesus is the church builder and we are to help Him.

The word church is translated from the Greek word Ekklesia. Its meaning is that the church is “*called out of, out from, called forth, called on and with a holy calling - a congregation, assembly and gathering for a purpose.*” The church is not a building, a meeting or a group of people who may worship Mary.¹ Pet 2:9 says about the church that “we are called out of darkness and into His marvelous light.” We are called out of the curse and into the blessing, out of death and into life, out of fear and into faith, out of the family of the devil and into the family of God. We are the church and the church is every Born Again child of God.

Each person who has made Jesus Christ their Lord and Master is a member of the church - the family of God, the body of Christ. We have been called out of sin into righteousness. We may meet

in a building but the building is not the church. Similarly a car may park in a garage but that does not make the garage a car. The church is people and Jesus is interested in building people and enlarging His family.

Thirdly Jesus stated that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. It is interesting that there is this idea that the gates of hell will not prevail or win or overtake us. That the gates are on the offense and moving forward but we can stop them and hold them back from their advancement.

This is not the case because gates are designed for defense not offense. Here is a fun phrase that will help you remember this -

DE-GATE GOES ON DE-FENCE

Gates go on the fence - they are for defense. We the church are on the offense advancing the Kingdom of God and the gates of hell cannot stop us. We are moving forward and upward and expanding our influence and advancing the dominion of our King Jesus.

We see in the Word that we are to rule and reign -

Matt 16:19 - we are authorized to bind and loose

Rom 5:17 - we are to rule and reign as kings through One, Jesus Christ (Amp. Version)

Luke 10:19 - we are authorized to tread on ... all the power of the enemy and nothing shall hurt us

I'd like to finish with one last scripture found in Is 59:19 -

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

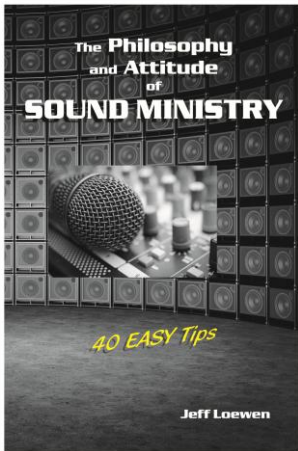
I would like to dissect the last half of this verse to bring out a point - so let's look at the Hebrew of some of the words. First the word *enemy* can be translated as trouble and *flood* as river. The words *lift up a standard* can be translated as chase, put to flight, cause us to escape harm, be displayed, to subdue and vanish away.

So this verse could read as - *when satan brings trouble like an overflowing river our way, the Lord (as we work together with Him) will display Himself and chase away, put to flight and cause us to escape harm and make the flood to subside and vanish away.*

We are an unstoppable force - the church, the family of God.

The scriptural reference in Matt 16 is the first mention of the church and these ideas and truths are part of the foundation of who the church is and what our purpose is.

- 1 The Church is founded on intimacy with and revelation from our Father God
- 2 The Church is built and grows by our hearing and doing and applying the revealed knowledge (His Word)
- 3 The Church is unstoppable



Here is the preface from my new book

PREFACE

I was asking the Lord how I could be a blessing to local churches. How I could take what He had given me and help Pastors.

He reminded me of my decades of experience working in and around the Sound Ministry and the things I have learned by trial and error.

This TIPS book is a result of my desire to be a blessing to Pastors and their Sound Ministry teams.

As you use this book and join hands together in this most important and exciting ministry I pray that God be glorified and your sound ministry move up to another level!

Pastors if you would like a copy at \$5 each contact me at - www.jlmin.org

Audrey's Faith Tidbit

Fellowship

1 John 1:3b “and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His son Jesus Christ.” (NKJV)

God desires to have fellowship with us. He loves us and He created us to be His family. He wants to be in relationship with us. In the beginning His creation, people, were stolen from Him through sin. He lost the close fellowship He had with Adam and Eve. We lost the closeness with Him! But now, through Jesus Christ, we can be restored into perfect, close fellowship with God the Father. Second Corinthians 5:18 talks about how God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ. In first Thessalonians 5:9 we are told God has appointed us to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. God has already provided the key, the way to be fully His. We have relationship with God the Father when we accept Jesus His son. John 14:6 says I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (Jesus).

One definition of fellowship is described as a unified body of people of equal rank sharing in common interests, goals and characteristics. It also means companionship, company and to share. God the Father has given us a part of Himself, His Holy Spirit. Our spirit has now been made like Him, it is perfect and is able to have communion with Him. God wants to commune with us. He desires companionship with us just like we desire to have companionship with people. However, there is nothing more satisfying than getting into His presence and just enjoy being with Him. There is a place in us that no one else except God can fill. No one on earth can satisfy that certain desire for communion except our Creator.

When we spend time in fellowship with God we share ourselves, our heart, our dreams and desires. By spending time with God in fellowship we will find peace, healing and restoration. Isaiah 40:31 says those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. In Psalm 29:11 we are told the Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. In His presence there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). Make time to spend with the Lord and become closer to Him. As you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you.