

THE PROMISE AND ITS PURPOSE (part-one of a seven-part study)

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ issues a comprehensive promise to His apostles which still applies to each of us, where we read the following –

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

This building project officially began on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the Church Age comes to a conclusion. Even though it has involved the forging of many brick and mortar structures, the emphasis of this all-important promise concerns people; namely, lost and fallen sinners in need of a Savior. This is the underlying purpose of the promise: the offer of salvation to individuals in need of having their sins forgiven. Furthermore, this building project has a blueprint which Jesus left with His earliest disciples. It consists of specific instructions for every follower of Christ ever since; providing us with a definitive role in the fulfillment of this promise and its purpose. It is commonly referred to as the Great Commission, and is detailed in Matthew 28:18-20, which reads as follows –

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

These instructions are so critical to the successful fulfillment of the promise and its purpose, that we have every gospel author including it in their account. Even prior to His ascension into heaven, our Lord briefly reiterates this mandate in Acts 1:8. Anyone who desires to participate in the building of Christ’s Church, must not only understand but follow through with the methodology outlined in Matthew 28:18-20; which we will interpret and apply, beginning with next week’s segment.