

The Integrity of the Word of God: 3

On This Rock

Matthew 16.13-19

Who Do You Say That I Am?

This was a pivotal moment in Peter's life – he had to confess Jesus as the Christ. He was an impetuous and impulsive man and often spoke 'out of turn', but here he speaks with all the conviction he has.

Who do men say I am? - it does not matter what others say – your salvation, your walk with God is personal – it's up to you!

Philippians 2.12 - “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” - you can't blame others, your parents, children, friends or pastor

What Does It Mean To Work Out Your Own Salvation

1. Saved by Grace, not of yourselves, not of works – Ephesians 2.8-9

- we cannot earn salvation
- we receive it as a gift from God

2. Your decision to follow Jesus is personal – John 21.19-21

- It has nothing to do with works, status or family
- (**testimony of salvation**)
- Peter was more concerned with what would happen to John but Jesus told him that his walk was personal – take care of your own walk

3. Build yourself up – Jude 1.20

- as in the natural so in the things of God
- babies are dependent on their mothers for food – but they grow and develop to the point where they feed themselves, then later they support themselves.

Follow God's Word - (Matthew 16.17-19)

'On this rock' – this rock was not a person (Peter), place (mountain), set of rules or guidelines. The clue to what Jesus meant can be found in verse 17 – 'revealed'

Jesus will build HIS church on what God has revealed – God's Word; for us living in the 21st century it is the written word.

“At the coronation ceremony of Queen Elizabeth II sixty years ago (1953), the Queen placed her hand on a Bible as she knelt and promised before God to perform her solemn oath. The ceremony continued as these words were spoken to her:

“Our gracious Queen: To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian princes, we present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the Royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God” “ (from 'Arise' by Kingsley N Armstrong, ch.6, pg.92)

Who do men say? - it's not about what men (professionals, politicians, even pastors) say..
What does God say?

We have to come to the point that God's is true. Romans 3.4 “...let God be true and every man a liar”

Follow God, Follow His Word – this Royal Law, these lively Oracles of God

Matthew 7.24 “whoever hears these sayings of Mine and does them.. wise man who built on ROCK”

1. God's Word is True

- John 17.17 – “sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”
- Psalm 119.160 - “the entirety of Your word is truth”

2. God's Word is Stable

- Mark 13.31 - “heaven and earth will pass away but My words will by no means pass away”
- Psalm 119.89 - “Forever O Lord Your word is settled in heaven” - ***I don't believe it, that doesn't change it!***

3. God's Word Guides Us

- Psalm 119.105 - “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path”
- Psalm 119.130, Psalm 119.133
- Romans 10.17 - “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”

God's word establishes and grounds our faith – gives us something solid to believe in