

Sermon ~ Sunday, April 25, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Matthew 16: 18

“And I also say to you that you are Peter (*petros*), and on this **ROCK (PETRA)**
I will build **MY Church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against **IT.**”

Title: “I’m, for The Church!”

Thank **GOD** for 26 years of *servicing HIM* by *servicing “The Greatest Assembly of The CHURCH,*
on this side of Glory” —The Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont...
[13 more years of the same *service*, between two other *Assemblies of The Church,*
one in China, Texas and the *other*, Woodville, Texas. Of both, I said also,
were “*The Greatest Assembly of The CHURCH,* on this side of Glory.”]

I’m inspired by the thought, **“I’m, for The Church!”** “I’m Pro-Church!”
I did not say, nor meant, *The Church-house*, but **“The Church!”**

From Matthew’s account of The Gospel, **The Church**, that I’m *for*, was still in the future,
JESUS said, “I will build.” The *persons* and *personalities* had to be *prepared* beforehand,
but the actual building began at our **LORD’S Resurrection** from the dead. **The Church** was *born,*
birth, became a reality, when **JESUS** *rose, was raised, had risen* from the dead.

JESUS is The ARCHITECT! Through centuries, **JESUS** has been *building HIS Church*, and *if* (since)
I am, we are, **HIS Church** today, we are because **HE** excavated (dug us out) of the first Adam and
placed us in the very position we now occupy—**HIS Church.**

Our *foundation* is not in the apostle (*petros*), but in our *confession (PETRA)*
of **The Divine SONship of JESUS CHRIST!** (“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill **HIM,**
because **HE** not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that **GOD was HIS FATHER,**
making **HIMself** equal with **GOD.**” (John 5: 18))

The LORD (*Raised with All-Power, All-Authority, and in Total Control*), defends **The Church**—
“The gates of hell—that is, the unseen world—including *all* the principalities and powers that
are allied against **GOD’S People, The Church,** they cannot prevail!”

“I’m, for The Church!”

For, this preposition is a *function word* that indicates, *my* purpose, *my* intended goal; because
of, in the place of, on behalf of; *I* represent; in spite of, with respect to... **“I’m, for The Church!”**

The building up of GOD’S Church—by *Divine Discernment, pulling up weeds, plucking out*
‘sucker-shoots that zaps away spiritual nourishments, planting The Seed of The WORD of GOD!
And, *plunging* into it’s depth by **HOLY GHOST interpretations!**

"I'm, for The Church!"

For **GOD'S Sake**— *for*, The sake of **The Church** in this world — *for*, the whosoever's— *for*, my Family sake — *for*, my own sake. But most of all, for, The LORD, JESUS CHRIST sake! **WHO** died, that I (we) would have *life*. Was *buried*, that I (we) would not be *Eternally condemned*. *HE* rosed from the dead, at our **FATHER GOD'S Call**, that we **Be The CHURCH**, *for* this dark Age sake.

"I'm, for The Church!"

Humbly serving, in season and out of season. For better or for worse because JESUS called me. Because JESUS COMmissioned me. Because JESUS is The Chief SHEPHERD of The Sheep and I'm a privileged Under-shepherd. Serving, HE Promised, will pay-off afterwhile!!!

"I'm, for The Church!"

You may demand my personal "*holiness*" ... How can I *help* you if I do not *trust HIM*? You may demand my personal "*holiness*" ... How can I *lead* you, if I don't *follow HIS Way, HIS Truth, HIS Life*. "*Holiness*" is **The TRUTH** but *sin* is a *lie*. And, though *sin* 'feigns a Heaven,' 'it inflicts a real Hell!' "But as **HE** hath called you *is HOLY*, so be **HOLY** in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye **HOLY, for I AM HOLY.**" (I Peter 1: 15-17)

"I'm, for The Church!"

Because I believe as **JESUS**, I *must* lead sheep from *orthodoxy* (out of floozy, sensual, prostituting thinking) to *orthopraxy* (to straight, right, true, practices/principle daily). **TRUTH** leads to *holiness*, while *error* leads to *sin*. As **JESUS teaches**, *Be* dogmatically **TRUE**, *Be* obstinately **HOLY**, *Be* immovably **HONEST**, *Be* desperately **KIND** and *Be* fixedly **UPRIGHT**.

Be blessed, 'hungering and thirsting after righteousness: for ye shall be filled.'

Be blessed, 'having a pure heart: for ye shall see GOD.'

Be blessed, 'though poor in spirit: for yours is The KINGdom of Heaven.'

Be blessed, 'though you mourn from time to time: for ye shall be comforted.'

Be blessed, 'be meek: for ye shall inherit the earth.'

Be blessed, 'be merciful: for ye shall obtain mercy.'

Be Blessed, 'be a peacemaker: for ye are a child of GOD.'

Let **The Church be The Church**, let the people rejoice.
Oh, we've settled the question, we've made our choice.
Let the anthems ring out, songs of Victory swell,
For **The Church Triumphant** is *alive and well!*

"I'm, for The Church!"