

## Growing The Church God's Way

Matthew 16:13-28

Pastor Roy Halberg

→ Whose church is this any way?

→ The State of the church . . . how is our church doing?

- Financially?
- Facilities?
- Family?
- Future?

Jesus will build His church and He will use us to do it

→ Notice what Jesus has to say about the church:

### 1. THE SETTING FOR THIS CONVERSATION IS INTRIGUING

-location:

-history:

### 2. THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED ARE PENETRATING

-Two questions:

- 1) Who do people say I am?
- 2) Who do YOU say I am?

### 3. THE ANSWER OF PETER IS REVEALING

-He's not the first to respond with this answer

-He identifies Jesus as " \_\_\_\_\_ "

-He didn't come to this conclusion on his own

### 4. THE RESPONSE OF JESUS IS EXCITING

-It tells us a great deal about the church:

A. The FOUNDATION of the church is \_\_\_\_\_ - "upon this rock..."

B. The PERSON who will build on this foundation is \_\_\_\_\_ - "I will build..."

C. The CERTAINTY of the church being built is guaranteed by \_\_\_\_\_

→ Consider these **Predictions For American Churches** (Thom Rainer is Pres of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention)

- 1) Increased church \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Decline in \_\_\_\_\_ growth
- 3) More \_\_\_\_\_-churches
- 4) Greater number of churches moving to a \_\_\_\_\_ worship style
- 5) Increased emphasis on high-\_\_\_\_\_ church membership
- 6) Increased challenges for congregations to build and acquire land due to \_\_\_\_\_ governmental policies

### **SO WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!**

→ Jesus will build His church and He will use us to do it

1. Jesus is in charge of HIS church . . . HE will build it... He WILL build it

2. But what part do you and I have

- P\_\_\_\_\_ for the church . . .
- I\_\_\_\_\_ one person to church each week
- W\_\_\_\_\_ new people when they come:
- E\_\_\_\_\_ yourself beyond Sunday morning:
- S\_\_\_\_\_ the church: T\_\_\_\_\_, T\_\_\_\_\_, T\_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus will build His church and He will use us to do it . . .

What will **YOU** do?

→ PRAYER: Lord help me to \_\_\_\_\_