

THE OAKBRIDGE

OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

UPON THIS ROCK

From Pastor Jim

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 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.

Matthew 16:13-18



There are different opinions among Bible scholars about the identity of the rock to which Jesus refers in Matthew 16:18. Some understand that rock to be Peter, whose name means rock. Others believe the rock is Jesus Himself. Then there are those who maintain that the rock is the confession of Jesus' identity which Peter uttered in Matthew 16:16—"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Solid and valid arguments can be made in support of all those viewpoints. It is possible to understand Peter as the rock of which Jesus speaks without adopting the Roman Catholic errors regarding papal authority, infallibility and succession. After all, the apostles are elsewhere in the Bible named as foundational to the church as the people of God (Ephesians 2:19-20), a fact which will be forever immortalized (Revelation 21:14).

It is also easy to picture Jesus as the foundation rock on which the church is built. After all, Jesus Christ is named as the foundation of God's building in 1 Corinthians 3:11.

In support of Peter's confession about Jesus' identity being the rock on which His church is built, it can be rightly asserted that unless the church is established on the basis of who Jesus is, rather than who people may think He is or want Him to be, it is not Jesus' church. The church is the pillar and support of the truth, and that truth involves the reality of who Jesus is.

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Upon this Rock (continued from page 1)

My goal here is not to take a side in the discussion of which identification of “this rock” should be adopted. Instead, I want to point out that the entire occasion described in Matthew 16:13-18 is focused on Jesus Christ with an emphasis on who He is.

Jesus’ first question put to His disciples has to do with who the populace think He is. His second question is asking His disciples who they think He is. Jesus’ pronouncement of Peter’s blessedness is in view of Peter’s proper understanding of who Jesus is. That proper understanding came to Peter as the direct result of the Father revealing to Peter who Jesus is.

So if Peter is the rock about which Jesus speaks as the foundation on which He will build His church, it is only Peter as one who properly embraces, trusts, loves and proclaims Jesus to be who Jesus really is. The key is Jesus—the Messiah, the Son of God—not Peter.

If Jesus is referring to Himself as the rock on which He will build His church, it is Himself as the promised Messiah, the Son of God become Son of Man in order to fulfill perfectly the redemptive will of His Father. Jesus is referring to Himself as the Messiah to whom Peter and everyone else must look and entrust themselves as their Savior, Lord, King and God. The key is Jesus.

If Jesus is referring to Peter’s confession as the rock on which He will build His church, He is referring to the reality that He is the Messiah—the Deliverer promised by God ever since the Fall, who is the Son of God and coming King. The key is Jesus.

No matter how we understand Jesus’ reference to “the rock,” our perception is correct only insofar as it directs us to Jesus and focuses us on Jesus as the key to the fulfillment of all God’s plan and purpose for His church. Only Jesus, the Jesus who is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is the image of the invisible God for whom all things were created. This Jesus is the one who is before all things and will someday be acknowledged by all as worthy of all worship, praise, trust and obedience.

I trust the application is evident to us as a church going through a time of change and transition. In this world change is constant. Circumstances change. Changes in personnel happen due to a variety of reasons. We change.

However, Jesus does not change (Hebrews 1:12; 13:8). Who He is will never change. He will always be the Son of the living God. He will always be the Messiah. He is forever the Redeemer, the Savior, the King of kings, the exalted Lord, the Head of His church.

Our trust must always and ultimately be in Jesus, the unchanging One no matter what changes we are experiencing. That trust in Him must and will lead us to worship Him, love Him, praise Him, rely on Him and obey Him in the midst of our lives filled with change—whether the changes seem favorable or not. That trust in Him will lead us to draw nearer to Him rather than distancing ourselves from Him when we are uncertain about what the future will hold.

Read 1 Peter and 2 Peter, and let Peter be a rock pointing you to Jesus. Contemplate and stand on the rock of Peter’s confession until you find your mind filled with the sufficiency of Jesus. Fix your eyes on Jesus, and you will be unfazed in the midst of transition and change.

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April Bible Reading

1	Daniel 7-9	Psalm 84
2	Daniel 10:1-12:4	Psalm 85
3	Daniel 12:5-13	Psalm 86
4	Catch-up day	Psalm 87
5	Catch-up day	Psalm 88
6	Hosea 1-2	Psalm 89
7	Hosea 3:1-5:7	Psalm 90
8	Hosea 5:8-7:16	Psalm 91
9	Hosea 8:1-9:9	Psalm 92
10	Hosea 9:10-10:15	Psalm 93
11	Hosea 11:1-11	Psalm 94
12	Hosea 11:12-13:16	Psalm 95
13	Hosea 14	Psalm 96
14	Catch-up day	Psalm 97
15	Catch-up day	Psalm 98

Two-Year Bible Reading Plan

This Bible reading plan is designed to take you through the Old and New Testaments in two years, and through the Psalms and Proverbs four times during that period.

16	Joel 1-2	Psalm 99
17	Joel 3	Psalm 100
18	Catch-up day	Psalm 101
19	Amos 1-2	Psalm 102
20	Amos 3-4	Psalm 103
21	Amos 5-6	Psalm 104
22	Amos 7	Psalm 105
23	Amos 8-9	Psalm 106
24	Catch-up day	Psalm 107
25	Obadiah	Psalm 108
26	Jonah	Psalm 109
27	Micah 1-3	Psalm 110
28	Micah 4-5	Psalm 111
29	Micah 6-7	Psalm 112
30	Catch-up day	Psalm 113

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	6:30 p.m. - Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Deacons Meeting	2	3 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer	4 1:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group	5 6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Group	6
7 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 12:30 p.m. - Emmaus L/C Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC L/C Group	8 6:30 p.m. - Elders & Deacons Meeting	9 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team Practice	10 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer	11 1:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group 4:00 p.m. - Visual Arts Committee Meeting	12 6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Group	13 10:00 a.m. - Women's Bible Study
14 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 2:00 p.m. - Good Samaritan Service 4:30 p.m. - Taste & See L/C Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC L/C Group	15 3:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting	16	17 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer	18 1:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group	19 6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Group 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Service	20
21 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 10:20 a.m. - Worship	22	23	24 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer	25 1:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group	26 6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Group	27
28 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 11:30 a.m. - Special OCC Bus. Mtg. 4:30 p.m. - Taste & See L/C Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC L/C Group	29	30	And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; Acts 13:28-30			

April Birthdays

April 6 – Addi Beyersdorf

April 8 – Eliora DeCaro

April 12 – Phyllis Anderson

April 12 – Jim Odens

April 14 – Helen Goldberg

April 17 – Bill Butler

April 21 – Elizabeth Smith

April 24 – Matt Plocher

April 25 – Eric Larson

April 30 – Suzy Plocher



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OCC Vision

The vision of Oakridge Community Church is to spread a joyful passion for the absolute, eternal supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things, to all peoples.

OCC Mission

The mission of Oakridge Community Church is to glorify God by delighting in, declaring and displaying the gospel of Jesus Christ.