

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Please explain 1 Peter 3:15-22

By Kevin Cauley

These verses of Scripture say Christ, went and preached to spirits in prison—1) Souls in prison, 2) while the ark was a preparing. Some believe the three days Christ was in the grave he went and preached to those in prison in a spiritual form. Would you please comment on this?

One of the principles of Bible interpretation is to interpret a passage in light of other clear Bible teaching. Based upon the clear teaching in Luke 23:43 that Jesus was going to be in “paradise” and based upon the passage in Luke 16:19-21 that there is a great divide between the spirits of the righteous and the unrighteous, we conclude that after a person has died, their ultimate destination (whether heaven or hell) is sealed. That is, as soon as a person dies, then that person will know their ultimate destination. Having this in mind, it does not make much sense to say that Jesus during the three nights that He was in the tomb, preached the gospel to departed spirits. Why would He preach to them? What would He say? Wouldn't this imply some kind of second chance? If so, then that would be inconsistent with the other clear teaching of the Bible such as: Hebrews 9:27, “And it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment.” It would also contradict passages such as Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death.” How can one say that after death comes judgment and if one dies in sin he must suffer eternal death if there is a second chance? What about the story of the covetous man in Luke 12:15-21. God said that the same night of his death, his soul would be required.

What about the parable of the 10 virgins who were not let in after the coming of the bridegroom because they were not ready (Matthew 25:1-13)? What about the parable of the talents where the men were judged based upon how they used their talents in this life (Matthew 25:14- 30)? Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize

When Shovels Break
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thru the Bible in 52
Weeks - 1 Peter

9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service

10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Study of the Book of Acts
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
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Was Peter the First Pope?

By Kevin Cauley

With all of the recent news regarding the Catholic Church many have heard stated as fact by news media and others that Peter was the first pope. This is, of course, official Catholic doctrine. But what does the Bible say about Peter's popehood? Is there one scripture that plainly declares that Peter was the first pope? There's not one. In fact, the evidence in scripture is against Peter being the first pope. Let's take a look at a few things in this regard.

Those who claim that Peter was the first pope state that Matthew 16:18 proves that Peter was given this title by Jesus himself. What does this verse say, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." These say that Peter is the rock upon which Jesus was going to build his church. However, the rest of scripture state otherwise. Jesus said that He was the rock in Matthew 21:42, when he said, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes". To this, Peter himself agreed! Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:6, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." Who is the chief corner stone? Peter or Jesus? It is Jesus. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Matthew, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:11 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The scriptures teach that Jesus was and is the foundation of the church, not Peter. Who then was the "rock" in

Matthew 21:42? It was Jesus himself. It was upon the rock of Peter's confession upon which Jesus would build His church, not upon Peter himself.

There are, however, other inconsistencies with the claim that Peter was the first pope. Peter, unlike the popes of our day, had a mother-in-law according to Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:30 and Luke 4:38. This meant that Peter (Cephas) was married. In 1 Corinthians 9:5, Paul calls our attention to this fact when he says, "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?" This is entirely inconsistent with what the Catholic Church requires in a "pope" today. The Catholic Encyclopedia states, "Virginity is consequently the special prerogative of the Christian priesthood." By and large, one must come up through the ranks of Catholic priesthood in order to become the pope. This would require celibacy for the pope. Too bad Peter didn't know this.

Another inconsistency is that Peter didn't allow anyone to bow down before him and worship him as those who fawn over the pope do today. In Acts 10:25,26 we have these words regarding Cornelius, "And when it came to pass that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man." The word "worship" in this verse refers as much to a position as to an attitude. It means to bow the knee toward or kiss toward another. The action of Cornelius' bowing down to Peter was understood as an action of worship. Unlike the popes of modern day who accept such worship, Peter refused it. He told this man to stand up because he, Peter, was also a man. Strange behavior indeed, from a pope! Why don't the popes of today follow Peter's example in this regard, if he TRULY was the first pope. Hypocrisy comes to mind as at least one of the reasons. Another reason is simply that Peter wasn't the first pope.

Perhaps the clincher is the situation in which Peter found himself at the church in Antioch. He had traveled there to visit and have fellowship with the brethren, but when his fellow Jews arrived, Peter stopped engaging in that fellowship and refused to eat with them. Paul called Peter down on this point. He states in Galatians 2:11 "But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned." This is strange behavior toward someone who was the first pope. Didn't Paul know about Peter's elevated status? Didn't Paul know that the pope is beyond reproach? Didn't Paul know that the pope makes the doctrine of the church? Who among the Catholics today would so act toward the pope if he were found to be in sin? Not any of them would so act. Yet, Paul treats Peter not as if he were someone special, but as if he were merely a brother who needed correction.

The fact of such matters is that Peter was never the first pope. Peter was not so elevated above the other apostles as to have a greater measure of authority than any of the others. Peter was a leader, of that there is no doubt. Peter was also a shepherd, but acknowledged that there were others who were on equal footing with him in this role (1 Peter 5:1). The Catholic Church would have us believe that Peter was the chief Shepherd of the whole church. They say, "The title pope, once used with far greater latitude (see below, section V), is at present employed solely to denote the Bishop of Rome, who, in virtue of his position as successor of St. Peter, is the chief pastor of the whole Church, the Vicar of Christ upon earth" (The Pope). They also state regarding John 21:15-17, "

What about the concept of being judged based upon the deeds that we do in THIS life (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; John 5:29; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)? Further, if there is a second chance, why should we even preach the gospel? Why not just all wait until after we die and then accept the gospel? So whatever this passage teaches, it does not teach that there is a second chance for salvation after death. So what does it teach?

In 1 Peter 1:9-10 Peter is talking about salvation. He says in verse 11 that the Spirit of Christ was in the prophets and that they preached concerning two things 1) Christ's suffering, and 2) the glories to follow. When we get to 1 Peter 3:18 there is a similar idea. First, it was by the Spirit of Christ that the preaching was done. This preaching was done at a specific time in history, while Noah was building the ark. What was their response to this preaching? They were disobedient. They did not believe and act upon the preaching that Christ, through Noah, presented to them. What was their fate? They were cast into "prison" to await the coming judgment—they are NOW spirits in prison. So what does this verse mean? It means that the Spirit of Christ preached to the men and women before the flood. Peter describes these men and women as spirits who are NOW in prison, though they were regular people during the days of the flood who were disobedient to the Spirit of Christ.

Announcements

- Hudson Sean Rowell born 6/23/21 at 1:19 pm weighed 7 lbs 8 oz 20 1/2" long. Auburn and baby doing great.

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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)

- Paula Carpenter (friend of Mark Potts) passed away

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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer

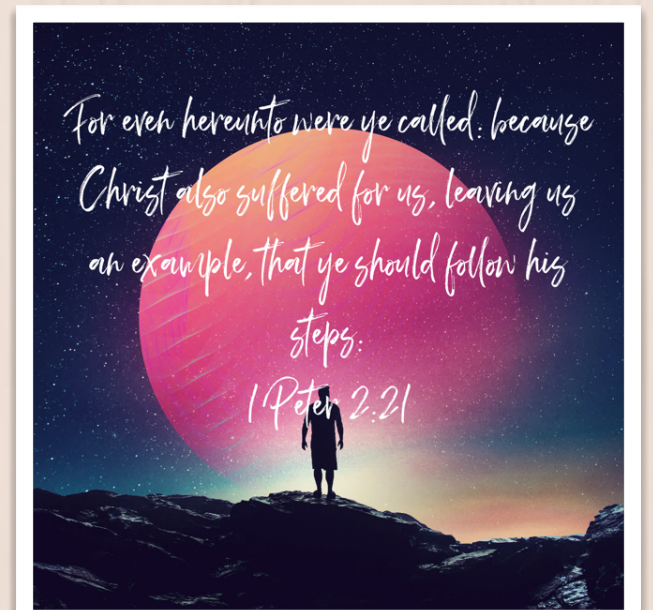
- July -

- August -

- September -

July Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Tristan Rowell - 6th
- Chuck Rowell - 11th
- Ryan & Kylie Joiner - 26th



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Shay Cooper

Scripture Reading - 1 Peter 2:21 - 24

Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg

Assist on Lord's Table - James Johnson

Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:26 - 29

Closing Prayer - Scott Williams



Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV

Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3