

The Oologah Informer September 14th , 2014

Christ is the Head of the Church – Not You, I or Peter! By Bryan Braswell

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Every Solider Falls
(Isaiah 53:6)

PM Sermon:

Renewing Your Faith
(Ephesians 4:21-24)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Joshua – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Fear – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

Radio Program

"The Minister's View" on
KTTRadio.org on Tuesday's at 9
am with Russ & Vance.

Before being crucified on the cross for the sins of the world (Matthew 26:28), the Lord promised to build His church (16:18). After this event, Jesus told His apostles that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him (28:18-20). With that authority, He commanded the apostles to go into the entire world and preach the gospel (the message of salvation) and proper behaviors that must be applied in the church (cf. Acts 8:5-12; 1 Timothy 3:15).

The apostles of Jesus never possessed this level of authority, nor did they ever claim to be heads of the church. However, some teach that Jesus gave this position to the apostle Peter, making him the first pope. But that is just not the case. In regard to the church, Peter penned: "Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Because it is contained in scripture, behold I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be put to shame" (1 Peter 2:5-6). His words demand our attention in this context. Not only does Peter confirm that Jesus is the chief cornerstone (not himself), but he also states that certain builders rejected Him as such. This has clear reference to the Christ who is the head of the corner, a stone of stumbling, and rock of offence (cf. 1 Peter 2:7-8). Peter concisely concludes that we, as members of His church, are "living stones" but not the head corner stone. Because of those who presumptuously contend that Jesus told Peter he was this rock, a study of this context must include Matthew 16:18-19. If Peter claimed to be the rock, he would be contradicting the word of the Lord. Peter knew he was not the head of the church, but that the Lord was and is. Jesus promised to build His church, founded upon the bedrock of truth, which truth was expressed in the confession of Peter: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). For this reason, Peter poignantly penned: "seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth..." and "for they stumble at the word, being disobedient..." (1 Peter 1:22; 2:8). Neither Peter nor the popes are the heads of the church. Christ is and always will be.

Concerning this idea, the apostle Paul wrote: "for other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). He further stated: "and He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18). And also: "far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and He [i.e. God the Father, - BRB] put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:21-23). Finally, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to relate the authority of the church to the divinely established authority of the home: "Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also

is the head of the church, being the savior of the body. But, as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything” (Ephesians 5:22-24).

There is only one head over the church. Christ is that head, and we must surrender to His authority. This authority is vested in His word, the Bible (Colossians 3:16-17). So the question now becomes, to whom have you surrendered, submitted, and pleaded for salvation (Acts 2:37)?