

With wisdom Samuel J. Stone

*The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word;
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.*

*The Precious
church of Christ*

wrote:



Subsequent to Peter's great proclamation, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" came the declaration, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). This pronouncement comes so quickly from Jesus that He conveys this additional message: "I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Understanding the identity of Jesus Christ is not complete without understanding the church and His relationship to her. The church was and is precious to Jesus and should be equally precious to us.

Master builders and certified architects will tell us that planning for and building a house is a personal matter precious to the owner. It becomes even more precious to them as the house is built and transformed into a home. From "thought" to "reality" that which was "planned" and "built" is that which is precious. Have you ever seen a house built? Have you discovered "thought" becoming "reality."

Jesus has seen His house built! He cared enough for the church to send the Holy Spirit to inaugurate it (John 14:16-17, Acts 2:1ff). He cared enough for the church to give Peter the keys to the kingdom, *to open the door*, and to preach the terms of entrance into His body (Acts 2:38-47). He cared enough for the church to leave the precious blueprints so that in case her form should ever be corrupted by man, others could come along and "build" her anew (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23). The church is precious to Jesus because He loved us enough to plan and build it.

A decent and loving husband will tell you there is nothing more precious in his sight than his wife. He will humble himself to serve her. He will make sacrifices for her. He will die for her if necessary. Got it?

The church is precious to Jesus because she is His bride (Revelation 21:2, 9; 22:17). Ephesians 5:25ff says Christ loved the church and cared for her so that she could be pure. The church is precious to Christ because He loves her and cares for her welfare as His bride.

Each person can comprehend the role of the head in relationship to the body. When the body is hungry, the head seeks to feed it. When the body is hurt, the head seeks to care for it. The body is precious to the head. Why? For life!

Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22, Colossians 1:18). He loves and will provide for His body as it has needs. The church is precious to Jesus because He considers it His body.

Finally, that which is precious is that for which we give our blood. In our country, many have died to defend and protect the ideals upon which this nation was founded. Many still give life to defend and protect. Blood shed proves how precious is the cause.

Jesus shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28-47). A follower of Jesus wrote this: "And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:17-19). The church is precious to Jesus Christ because He died and shed His blood for her! What have we done for her?

Do we truly understand how precious the church is to Jesus Christ?

Bday/Anniv Lunch: ...yes, when we can!
YOUR Bible Study: Consider what the study of God's Word will do (see **2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17**). Make time to learn Scripture that may apply to your life today...be blessed y'all!
— **THANK YOU** for reading!