



# Revelation & Relationship

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At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications

*"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."*

1 Corinthians 2:13

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# The Foundation

**10 “According to the grace of God, which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” I Corinthians 3:10-11**

No Christian would deny that Christ is the Foundation of the Church. After all, Paul said it was so. But what does that actually mean? How is the Foundation of Christ laid in the life of a disciple? What is different about a body of Christians who have been truly built upon the Foundation of Christ?

Peter said that the Church is “being built up as a spiritual house”.<sup>1</sup> We know that in a building, **every aspect of that building utterly depends upon its foundation.** But what exactly did Paul mean when he said he “laid a foundation”? Also, what did Paul mean when he said he *laid a foundation which already is laid*?

The apostle Peter told us that in Zion, **God Himself** laid as a foundation “a Choice Stone”, “a Precious Cornerstone”.<sup>2</sup> God did

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 2:5

<sup>2</sup> 1 Peter 2:6

this possibly 725 years before Jesus of Nazareth was born, for that is when Isaiah prophesied it.<sup>3</sup> But if we equate the Church to the people of God who were “chosen” in Christ and “adopted” through Christ, then it would be accurate to say that **the Foundation of Christ was laid “before the foundation of the world”**. This is the view of the Church we see in the writings of the apostles Peter, and Paul, and John.<sup>4</sup>

But what does it mean that God laid Jesus Christ as the Foundation? And how did Paul *lay a Foundation that had already been laid*? What do these statements mean? To find the answers, let’s go back to the One from Whom the apostles got their ideas about the Church. Let’s go back to the One Who was the First Christian, Jesus Christ, “the Author and Finisher of our faith”,<sup>5</sup> the One Who invented the whole idea of Church. Let’s go back to that very first mention of the word “church” in the New Testament:

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<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 28:16

<sup>4</sup> 1 Peter 1:20; Ephesians 1:4-5; Revelation 13:8. This concept is also put forth by Simon Chan in his, Simon (2006) *The Ontology of the Church*, Chapter One, *Liturgical Theology, The Church as Worshiping Community*. InterVarsity Press. (2006)

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 12:2

# Revelation

**“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**

Jesus asked His disciples about the general consensus of the surrounding society and culture – who did people think He was? But His Church is not marketed and built on cultural trends. The people’s perspective seemed sensible – Jesus was “one of the prophets”. But we will see that being part of His Church requires a REVELATION of *a particular Prophet*<sup>6</sup> – the Prophet who is also Priest and King – the Prophet who is “the Son of the Living God” – the One Whom Moses and all the prophets prophesied would come.

Jesus said, “But who do **YOU** say that I am”? To be part of His Church, Jesus insists on a personal REVELATION OF HIMSELF,

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<sup>6</sup> Deuteronomy 18:17-19; Acts 7:36-38

which is given to each individual disciple by the heavenly Father. He said, “No one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father”.<sup>7</sup> In other words, people may come to the church building, but people don’t “come to Jesus” unless the Father REVEALS Christ to them. In this passage, Jesus informs us that **REVELATION is the foundational rock – the bedrock<sup>8</sup> – upon which He builds His Church.** It is a foundation which is laid, and then built upon. **JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH BY REVELATION OF HIMSELF.**

From this passage in Matthew, we can see where Peter got the analogy he used to define the Church as those who have a revelation of “The Living Stone”, “The Precious Cornerstone”, and are coming to Him and being built up “living stones” in a spiritual house.<sup>9</sup>

So, we understand that the “rock” upon which Jesus is building His Church is the REVELATION of Who He is – “The Christ, the Son of the Living God”. The way Jesus builds His Church is by REVELATION OF HIMSELF. Jesus said that the ministry of the Holy Spirit would always be to “testify of Me”.<sup>10</sup> An angel told

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<sup>7</sup> John 6:44; Cf. John 6:44; Isaiah 54:13

<sup>8</sup> Greek: *petra*, Strong’s # 4073, as distinguished from Peter, *petros* (#4074), a piece of rock larger than *lithos* (#3037), a stone.

<sup>9</sup> 1 Peter 2:4-6

<sup>10</sup> John 15:26; 14:26; 1 John 5:6

John that “the spirit of prophecy is **the testimony of Jesus**”.<sup>11</sup>

This is the way the Church that Jesus is building is built – through REVELATION. Now Christianity has produced a proliferation of methods and means with regards to church planting, church growth, and church ministry. But **THIS is how Jesus builds His Church – BY REVELATION OF HIMSELF.**

And I believe the scriptures indicate that this is how the apostolic workers of the first century (and throughout church history) collaborated with Him –by preaching Christ. REVELATION of Christ is absolutely key for there to be Church.

So, we understand that the “rock” is REVELATION. But is the “rock” the foundation? Not exactly. This “rock” – *petras* – is defined as “*a mass of rock, a bedrock*”.<sup>12</sup> It is not the foundation itself, but **something the foundation is laid upon.** So, the **bedrock is REVELATION of Christ, and the Foundation is laid upon REVELATION.** But what is that **FOUNDATION?** Let’s look at more of what Jesus has to say about it:

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<sup>11</sup> Revelation 19:10

<sup>12</sup> *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, Strong’s # 4073.

## Relationship

**<sup>46</sup>“Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”**

Luke 6:46-48

In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul said that “fire” would test and reveal what sort of work each man has done in the Lord.<sup>13</sup> And here in this parable, the Lord is saying that a “flood” would serve the same purpose, that is, to test and reveal if a spiritual house has been “well built”.

Regarding this, in verse 48, Jesus says the man “laid a foundation on the rock”. The “rock” is REVELATION of Christ; and the foundation is laid on the “bedrock” - that is, the foundation is laid on the REVELATION of Christ. So again, what is the foundation that is laid?

In verse 46, we see the words, “Lord, Lord”. The subject matter is lordship. Because of the REVELATION he received from the Father, in his very first recorded sermon, Peter preached Jesus

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<sup>13</sup> I Corinthians 3:10-15

as “both Lord and Christ”.<sup>14</sup> That is what Jesus is referring to here - **relating to Him according to that REVELATION**. If He has been REVEALED to us as Lord, then we should **RELATE** to Him as Lord. Otherwise, it is hypocrisy.

Verse 47 gives us further indication: The idea of “coming” to Jesus and “hearing” Jesus are also **RELATING** type activities. And, of course, that “hearing” means following through in action - obeying what we hear. So, we can conclude that the foundation is **RELATIONSHIP with Jesus as Lord and Christ**.

**THAT is the Foundation: RELATIONSHIP with Christ!** The Foundation of our Christian life and the Foundation of the Church is **RELATIONSHIP with Christ**.

This **RELATIONSHIP** starts with **REVELATION** – we cannot relate to that which we do not know. And this **RELATIONSHIP** continues in **REVELATION** - as our **REVELATION** of Christ grows, our **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ grows.

Everything in our Christian life, and everything in the life of the Church utterly leans on and depends upon our **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ. As the apostle Paul put it: “... **serving God through**

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<sup>14</sup> Acts 2:36



his Spirit, boasting in Christ Jesus, and having no confidence in human nature.”<sup>15</sup> THAT is authentic, biblical Christianity.

Now this foundation is not a dependent upon our ability to get revelation, for that would be works instead of grace. Rather, it is a blood-bought RELATIONSHIP with Christ through faith. Yet, this RELATIONSHIP is determined by – that is, limited to or proportionate to – our REVELATION of Christ. We cannot relate to what we don’t know about Christ. The *bedrock* of REVELATION sets the parameters of the *foundation* of RELATIONSHIP.

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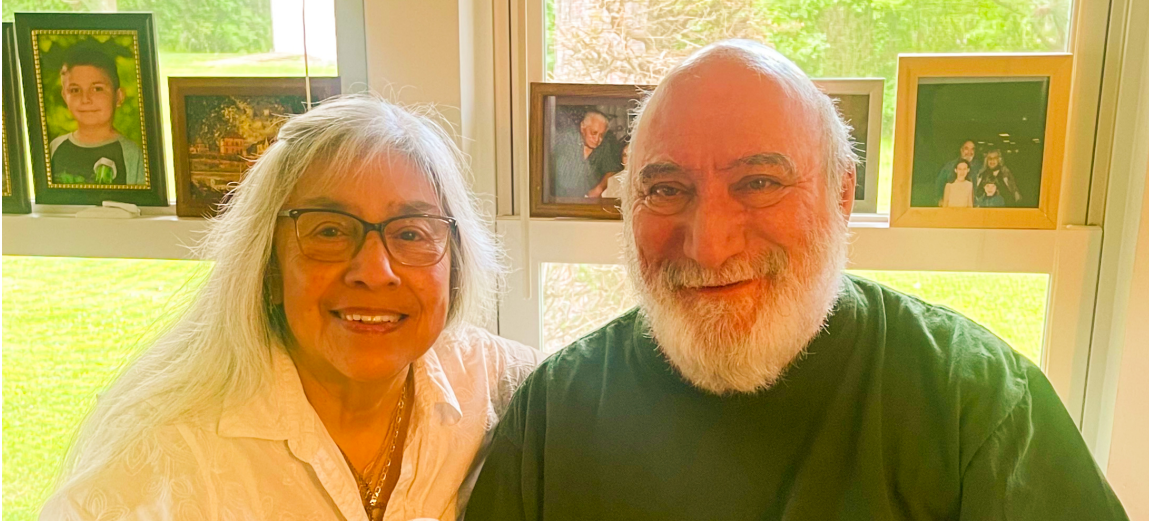
*“Revelation & Relationship” is an excerpt from the eBook [Christ Is Prerequisite for Church](#). See the corresponding eBook and Audio Message on [our website](#).*

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<sup>15</sup> A literal translation of Philippians 3:3. Cf. Robertson’s *Word Pictures in the New Testament* & Vincent’s *Word Studies*.

Bill & Frances Furioso  
~ At Christ's Table ~



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, discipled many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... [www.AtChristsTable.org](http://www.AtChristsTable.org)

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