

# How Firm a Foundation!

*Matthew 16:13-23*

The Church is built upon a rock-solid foundation. Jesus said, “Upon this **Rock** I will build My Church.” Some have wrongly identified this “Rock” as Peter and the popes, which they claim followed him. It would be a spiritual disaster if the Church were built upon Peter or upon any fallible man. Peter once cried, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (*Luke 5:8*). Yet, in spite of his sins and shortcomings, Peter gave a powerful confession about who Jesus really is: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (*Matt. 16:16*). Peter acknowledged His Messiahship and His Deity.

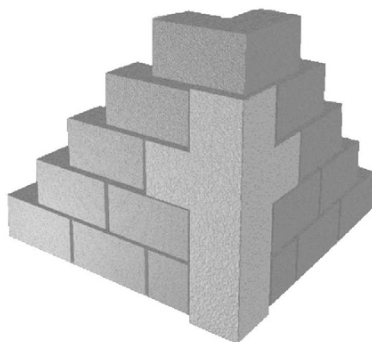
In 1 Corinthians 10:4 a great **Rock** is mentioned, and that **Rock** was Christ. In Matthew 21:42 Jesus mentioned a great Stone which was rejected and became the Head or chief Cornerstone (*Psalms 118:22*). In Acts 4:10-12 Peter identified Jesus Christ as this rejected Stone which has become the Head of the corner. In his first epistle, Peter again identified Christ as this great Stone (*1 Pet. 2:4,6*), and he identified himself and other believers as “living stones” which make up a “spiritual house” which is Christ’s Church (*1 Pet. 2:5*).

Paul knew that the Church’s one and only foundation was Jesus Christ our Lord (*1 Cor. 3:11*).

Any Jew familiar with the Old Testament certainly knew who the **Rock** was: “Ascribe greatness unto our God. He is the **Rock**, His work is perfect” (*Deut. 32:3-4*). “For who is God, save the LORD? And who is a **Rock**, save our God?” (*2 Samuel 22:32; see verses 2,3,47*) “And they remembered that God was their **Rock**” (*Psalms 78:35*). Approximately 34 times in the Old Testament God is called the **Rock**, so no one less than God could ever qualify to be the **rock**-solid foundation of the Church.

**“On Christ the solid Rock I stand!”**

~*George Zeller*: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



# How Firm a Foundation!

*Matthew 16:13-23*

The Church is built upon a rock-solid foundation. Jesus said, “Upon this **Rock** I will build My Church.” Some have wrongly identified this “Rock” as Peter and the popes, which they claim followed him. It would be a spiritual disaster if the Church were built upon Peter or upon any fallible man. Peter once cried, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (*Luke 5:8*). Yet, in spite of his sins and shortcomings, Peter gave a powerful confession about who Jesus really is: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (*Matt. 16:16*). Peter acknowledged His Messiahship and His Deity.

In 1 Corinthians 10:4 a great **Rock** is mentioned, and that **Rock** was Christ. In Matthew 21:42 Jesus mentioned a great Stone which was rejected and became the Head or chief Cornerstone (*Psalms 118:22*). In Acts 4:10-12 Peter identified Jesus Christ as this rejected Stone which has become the Head of the corner. In his first epistle, Peter again identified Christ as this great Stone (*1 Pet. 2:4,6*), and he identified himself and other believers as “living stones” which make up a “spiritual house” which is Christ’s Church (*1 Pet. 2:5*).

Paul knew that the Church’s one and only foundation was Jesus Christ our Lord (*1 Cor. 3:11*).

Any Jew familiar with the Old Testament certainly knew who the **Rock** was: “Ascribe greatness unto our God. He is the **Rock**, His work is perfect” (*Deut. 32:3-4*). “For who is God, save the LORD? And who is a **Rock**, save our God?” (*2 Samuel 22:32; see verses 2,3,47*) “And they remembered that God was their **Rock**” (*Psalms 78:35*). Approximately 34 times in the Old Testament God is called the **Rock**, so no one less than God could ever qualify to be the **rock**-solid foundation of the Church.

**“On Christ the solid Rock I stand!”**

~*George Zeller*: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

