



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Christ Will Build His Church

SPEAKER Ps Low Kok Guan

THEME The Glorious Church

DATE 20 & 21 November 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Ps Low opened with a vision of what a glorious church would look like. This includes but is not limited to anointed worship, paying attention to God's word, sweet fellowship among brothers and sisters, unity among the leadership, reaching out to our oikos creatively and like BBTC, celebrating 35 years of God's faithfulness, goodness, mercy, grace and guidance. He encouraged us to look forward into the years ahead on what BBTC would be like and we have to intentionally advance towards making our church a glorious one. He outlined three essentials for this to take place.

CHRIST WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH

1. RELEARN WHEN THE LORD REVEALS

In Matthew 16:13–20, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Only Simon Peter said that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. The Lord added, however, this was not a conclusion Peter had determined by his own or others' ability. God, the Father in heaven, had revealed it to him. Jesus explained to Peter (his name is “*petros*” which means small stone) that on this Rock (“*petra*” – a mass of rock), He will build His church and give Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus was introducing His work of building the church on Himself and re-defining what the rock was so that they can re-learn as He reveals it to His disciples. Christ Himself is the rock and cornerstone, which anchors the church. His works are perfect and all his ways are just. Similarly for us, we must relearn to know who Jesus is to us. This is only possible through divine revelation and profession of our faith in Christ when we spend time reading His Word and getting to know Jesus better. He has given us the keys to the kingdom of heaven. These keys symbolize the authority and powers according to His Holy word.

2. RESIST WHEN THE DEVIL DECEIVES

As we partner with God to build the church, there is an enemy who comes to steal, kill and destroy. We need to remember that a Christian journey is not just a spiritual walk with God but also a spiritual warfare against the evil one. We see this when Jesus shared His plans with his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on

the things of God, but on the things of man. Matthew 16:21-23. In other words, Peter was trying to say to Jesus to be merciful, kind to Himself instead of being so hard. The ISV states it as "God be merciful to you, Lord! This must never happen to you!" and the YLT version is "Be kind to thyself, Sir; this shall not be to thee."

Evidently, the thought was from the enemy and there is an invisible war in our minds. We have to be careful what we allow in our minds and discern what is from God or from the enemy. This can be achieved by putting on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:11 says resist the devil and he will flee from us. Unity in the church is important and God desires that the church may be one. John 17:20-21 says: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

Let us reflect on our walk with God during COVID-19. Have we chosen convenience vs conviction, comfort over commitment and consumerism vs contribution? We are reminded not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as we see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10: 25)

3. REJECT WHAT THE SELF DESIRES

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

In Matthew 17:1-2, 5, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" We are strongly encouraged to listen to Christ and to follow God wholeheartedly so that we, as the church, can advance. The greatest reward when we follow God wholeheartedly is more of Christ in us and we will be more like Jesus (i.e., Christ-likeness and fruit of the Holy Spirit). Jesus denied Himself completely and He followed the instructions of His Father wholeheartedly, even death on the cross.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are reminded that the Lord's omnipotent and omniscient nature means that God has been and will always be there for all of us, in the good and bad times. Let's thank God for everything and how He has been with us faithfully at every milestone in our lives. We are encouraged to play our part as we contribute towards building a glorious church. Ps Low encouraged us to ask God to speak to us so that He can reveal His will for each and every one of us. As we prayerfully seek Him, God will reveal our roles and how we can serve Him in every area of our life (whether in church, at home or other areas that He has placed us) so that we can be counted faithful in His eyes.

QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jesus to you? What might be some things about Jesus which you have had to unlearn and relearn in this season?

2. Reflect on your walk with God during COVID-19. In what ways have we chosen convenience over conviction, comfort over commitment, consumerism over contribution? What do we need to change in order to prioritize God and His people?

3. Seek the Lord prayerfully on how you can contribute towards making the church a glorious one. How can we play our part in BBTC so that our church can continue to advance in the years ahead?