

METHOD

POWER

INCENTIVE

~~The Church, The Confession~~
JESUS' THREE GREAT PROMISES

Scripture:

Matthew 16:18

John 16:7, 14:3

Introduction

Jesus made three major promises to mankind before he ascended into heaven. Contained in the promises were the keys to the successful conquest of the world by his kingdom.

The first two promises have been and are being fulfilled. We await the fulfillment of the third.

I. I will build my church

...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

A. This is HIS church.

1. He owns lock, stock and barrel
2. We just work here

B. He does the building

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Psalms 127:1

1. He sets the standards.
2. He selects the material

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17b

- a. Those whom the world rejects, he accepts
- b. The failure, outcast, unlovable are made new and built into his church

II. I will send the Comforter

It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

- A. Agent through whom Jesus builds his church
- B. The Spirit provides the victory
 - 1. Spirit is the standard bearer

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19b

- 2. The spirit empowers to victory
 - a. Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18)
 - b. Spirit gives power to prevail

Behold I give you power...over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

- C. Holy Spirit poured out to meet the crises of the church age
 - 1. On the day of Pentecost
 - 2. For the final age

III. I will come again

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:3

- A. Every sign points to Jesus' soon return
 - 1. Distress of nations
 - 2. Moral depravity (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - 3. Israel

III. I will come again

- A. Every sign points to Jesus soon return
 - 4. Move toward centralized world government
 - 5. Ecumenism toward "Superchurch"
- B. We had better start looking up

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Luke 21:28

- C. We had better be prepared

Conclusion

The great French chemist, Piere Berthelot, said in the 1860's, "In about a hundred years, man will have unlocked the secrets of the atom. About that time the One upstairs will come down with his big ring of keys and say, 'Gentlemen, it's time to close'".

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