

(question) Now you get into the careful exegesis of this passage. There is no passage more controversial in the whole Bible than this, and so I do not think that it is necessary at this point to draw conclusions apart from what is I think is absolutely clear in it. And absolutely clear in it, I would say, is that there is one church which he is building. And that this one church is my church, I think that is clear, that Christ is building the church, and that He is building ~~it~~ it on the rock, whatever the rock means. And that my church the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Now I don't know of any local church that you could say that the gates of hell shall not prevail against that particular local church.'

And I certainly do not think that any local church could say that it is par excellence, my church. ~~xxx~~ If the verse stood absolutely alone, it would be difficult to draw too much from it, I think that this would be quite obvious in it, but then when you have these usages in Ephesians and ~~xxxxxxx~~ Colossians and the references in Hebrews about our being surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, and about they without us not being made perfect, and the various statements which fit together with this, whether they use the word church or not. It would seem to me that the thought is inescapable, that there is something that is Christ's church, which is made up of all those which are knit together with Him. All those which are saved through Him. Which would include all those who are saved through His blood and nobody has ever been saved any other way. If Adam was saved, it ^{would include} certainly ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Adam. ~~xxxxif~~ It certainly would include Noah, it ~~xxx~~ certainly would include any who have been saved through Christ. Have been or ever will be.

And this church would not include anyone who is not saved. Well, then we have this universal church, we've noticed its existence proven, we might call that A if we want, under two, its existence proven, and then B, the headship of Christ. It is my church. He is the one from whom all the body knit together by bands and joints receives its nourishment. We being surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He is the head of