

## ***The Community of the Committed***

**Matthew 16.13-20**

January 5 & 6, 2019

Introduction:

### **I. God wills a church that confesses**

**C**\_\_\_\_\_

A. "On this rock"

B. Christ is the **C**\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

### **II. God wills a church that **G**\_\_\_\_\_**

A. "I will build"

B. God wants to **C**\_\_\_\_\_ us

### **III. God wills this church to be **g**\_\_\_\_\_ community**

A. "my church"

B. The Biblical images for the church are **C**\_\_\_\_\_

### **IV. God wills this church to be influential**

A. "And the **G**\_\_\_\_\_ of **H**\_\_\_\_\_ will not overcome it"

B. The Church **C**\_\_\_\_\_ the world, the flesh, and evil

### **V. God wills this church to an eternal mission**

A. "Whatever you bind on **E**\_\_\_\_\_ will be bound in **H**\_\_\_\_\_; and whatever you loose on **E**\_\_\_\_\_ will be loosed in **H**\_\_\_\_\_"

B. The work of the church has eternal **C**\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion:

## **Questions for reflection or small group discussion**

- Why do you think so many who believe in Christ do not participate in a gathered community of believers?
- Can you restate Peter's confession in your own terms?
- Have you made such a confession? What evidence would you give for this confession?
- What do you make of the construction image? Exactly what is God "building"?
- Whose church are we? How does this work in practicality?
- Why is it important to "gather"? What is the purpose of it?
- Can you make a list of image for the church in the Bible?
- Take some time to reflect on the biblical application and value of each image on your list.
- Is the church a "safe harbor" in the world, or is it a force for change establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Where are some practical ways that we can confront the world in our day with the righteousness of God?
- How does the eternal consequence of our work impact the way we view other people? How does it impact the way we view what we do in the church?
- How can you change the way you think and act with regard to Christ's church to bring it more into conformity with the view of Jesus?
- Having engaged in this study, how would you change the way your Christian friends here think about our congregation and the ministry we have?