

“WORD OF LIFE”

August 16, 2026

58. CHRIST – HIS PERSON (38)

U. IN THE CHURCH

1. The Rock as the Foundation

Suggested Hymns: # 199 & (# 568) / # 224 / # 21

✚ “... the words ... are spirit and are life.,” (John 6:63)

Matt. 16:15 - He said to them, ..., who do you say that I am?

Matt. 16:16 - ..., You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matt. 16:17 - ..., Blessed are you, ..., because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens.

Matt. 16:18 - And I also say to you that you ... upon this rock I will build My church,

1Cor. 3:11 - For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

✚ “... the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...,” (Phil. 3:8)

❖ Christ is the rock as the foundation on which the church is built.

➤ The rock refers to Christ Himself as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

- As the anointed One of God, Christ refers to the Lord’s commission
 - His commission is to accomplish God’s eternal purpose
 - through His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and second advent
- As the, second of the Triune God, Son refers to His person
 - His person embodies the Father and issues in the Spirit
 - for a full expression of the Triune God

➤ The rock refers to the revelation of Christ received from the Father.

- The church is built both upon the rock of Christ and the revelation concerning Christ.
- As the rock upon which the church is built, Christ is the unique foundation of the church.
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is the unique foundation laid by God for the building of the church.
 - No one should lay any other foundation other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - We must build upon the foundation already laid, upon the unique Christ.

➤ As the eternal Rock of our stronghold, Christ is the God of our salvation, in whom we should trust.

✚ “For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.” (1Cor. 14:31)

✚ The church is being built upon Christ, the Son of the living God. God’s work has been to build the Body—the church as the temple of God—upon this rock as the foundation.

✚ The church’s foundation is Christ, revealed and ministered through the apostles and prophets. Ephesians 2:20 speaks of the foundation of the apostles and prophets. This foundation is the Christ whom they ministered to others. We must stay with this rock as the foundation, Christ.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 58 letter T-1)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 199 Praise the Lord— His All-inclusiveness

1 Thou art the **Rock** everlasting,
Spiritual **Rock** cleft for me;
Drinking of Thee as the **Spirit**,
Thus I become one with Thee.
Thou art the **Rock** never shaken,
'Tis on this **Rock** we are built;
Joined unto Thee thru **redemption**,
Nothing can shake us thru guilt.

Chorus:

Lord, how we **treasure** Thy value,
All that Thou art is for us;
While here in **loving remembrance**
We share Thy wealth glorious.

2 Thou art the **Stone** tried by many,
Precious to **God**, dear to us,
Thou art so **sure** and **trustworthy**,
Thy strength is so marvelous.
Thou art the **Stone** that is **living**,
Chosen of **God**, made our own;
So energetic and pow'rful,
With endless life to us known.

3 Thou art the **Stone of Foundation**
Laid by our **God**, safe and sure;
It is by this **sure foundation**
Safety fore'er we secure.
To us **no other foundation**
Of any kind man can lay;
Thou art the **only foundation**
Which we have now and for aye.

4 **Lord**, for **God's** **spiritual building**,
Thou art the **Chief Cornerstone**;
Both of the **Jews** and the **Gentiles**
By Thee are **built into one**.
Lord, Thou art also the **Topstone**,
Brought forth in measureless grace;
Thou art our cover and glory,
Moving our hearts in Thy praise.

Isa 26:4 –

Trust in **Jehovah** forever and ever,
For in **Jah Jehovah** we have an **eternal rock**.

Psa. 62:1 –

My soul **waits** in silence for **God** alone;
My **salvation** is from Him.

Psa. 62:2 –

He alone is my **rock** and my **salvation**,
My high retreat; I will not be greatly shaken.

Psa. 95:1 –

Come, **let us sing for joy** to **Jehovah**;
Let us make a joyful noise to the **rock** of our
salvation.

[Hymn #568 – Experience of Christ -
Trusting Him]

Hymn 224 Praise of the Lord – Remembrance of Him

1 As we're sharing of the **cup**,
How can we restrain our praise;
For the **blood** Thou **shedd'st** for us,
Worth of which none can appraise.
O how **precious** is Thy **blood**!
All our problems it resolves;
In Thine **efficacious blood**
All our care and fear dissolves.

2 It is by this **blood** of worth
The **New Testament** was made;
For this **better covenant**,
'Tis a **sure foundation** laid.
We have been **redeemed** by **God**,
Not with silver or with gold,
But, **Lord**, with Thy **precious blood**,
Which Thy love doth e'er unfold.

3 For **remission** of our **sins**
Thou hast **shed** Thy cleansing **blood**.
Which for us has fully met
All the **righteous** claims of **God**.
Thou hast washed us from our sins
In Thy pow'rful purging **blood**;
And our conscience purged by it,
Thus to serve the living **God**.

4 By Thy **separating blood**,
We have all been **sanctified**;
'Tis by Thy **preserving blood**
Holiness is testified.
By Thy **propitiating blood**,
We have all been justified;
'Tis by Thy **redeeming blood**
God is fully satisfied.

5 Thru Thy **blood shed** on the **cross**,
We are **reconciled** to **God**,
That the way to contact Him
May in peace by us be trod.
By **partaking** of Thy **blood**,
We have Thine eternal life;
In Thy **blood** and **life received**,
We have rest, free from all strife.

Rom 3:25 –

Whom God set forth as a **propitiation place** through
faith in His **blood**,
for the **demonstrating** of His righteousness,
in that in His forbearance **God** **passed over the sins**
that had **previously occurred**,

Rom 3:26 –

With a view to the **demonstrating** of His
righteousness in the **present time**, so that He might
be righteous and the One who justifies him who is
of the **faith** of **Jesus**.

...He has sent His **Son**. We are now **justified** in
Him. In itself this very justification is a just act.
This passage tells us the different ways that **God**
handled these two things.
First, He **passed over** the sins committed **formerly**,
reckoning that Jesus would come;
in this He proved Himself righteous.
Second, He **forgives all the sins** committed **now**,
basing this upon the judgment of **Christ**;
in this He also declares Himself righteous.
By the death of **Jesus**, **God** has **both** declared us
sinless as well as Himself **righteous**.

Hymn 21 Worship of the Father – His Redemption

1 We praise Thee for Thy **righteousness**;
Thy justice, **Father**, we confess,
And fully testify.
Thou art the judge of all mankind,
In Thee injustice none can find,
Nor wrong to Thee apply.

2 O holy **Father**, **righteous** One,
Thy righteousness upholds Thy throne,
'Tis a **foundation sure**.
'Tis through this **righteousness** of Thine
That reigns in **Christ** the grace divine,
And peace we thus secure.

3 Thy **righteousness** has caused Thy **Son**
To **die for us** that we be won,
Redemption thus was bought;
Thy **righteousness** has justified
When **Christ's** redemption was **applied**,
Salvation thus was wrought.

4 That Thou might show Thy **righteousness**,
With Thy **forgiveness** Thou didst bless
Men in the **ancient age**;
For Thee Thy righteousness to show,
Remission Thou dost now bestow
On sinners in **this age**.

5 All people Thou wilt judge one day,
Thy **righteousness to all display**
By **Christ**, Thy **Son**, our **Lord**;
Yet fast we'll stand, for none can move,
Thy **righteousness** we'll ever prove,
With **grace** Thou wilt afford.

6 With **justice** is Thy kingdom filled,
And **peace** upon it Thou dost build
With all in harmony;
In the new heaven and new earth
Thy righteousness will be their worth,
As promised, **God**, by Thee.

Joh 1:29 –

... Behold, the **Lamb of God**, who **takes away**
the sin of the world!

Joh 3:16 –

For **God** so loved the world that He **gave** His
only begotten Son, that everyone who believes
into Him would not perish, but would have
eternal life.

During the Old Testament time, the **sins** of the
people were not taken away but were **only**
covered with the **blood** of the **animal sacrifices**,
which were types of **Christ**.
God **passed over** these covered **sins** until **Christ**
came. He was the **Lamb of God** who **took away**
the sin of the world. By His death on the cross
and the **shedding of His blood** for redemption,
He **carried away all the sins** that had been
previously covered and passed over. In passing
over their sins, God **demonstrated His**
righteousness to the Old Testament saints.