Daily Devotion #124

The Church

*Mathew 16:18* ***– “****I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”*

Family is a wonderful word. Maybe a better way to describe it is concept, or even better institution, or even better than that, a living organism. The concept of family was in the heart and mind of God from the beginning of time when He first made Adam and Eve. (Genesis 2) I, for one, am thankful to God that He created the family.

Family is that group of people who are so close that they know how each one thinks, how each one feels, and what each one likes and doesn’t like. It is the place where people can be real, for lack of better words. I had the joy of being raised by parents who understood the value of family. Although they didn’t always do what was right in the eyes of some, they instilled in me the awareness that family is the backbone of society and a culture. I have had the privilege of being part of a family of my own. Along with my wife, we have had 33 years of wonderful family life. We still enjoy our family now, even though our children are living life on their own.

As an example of an earthly family and its wonder, God instituted the Church as God’s plan for all His family. While many people are raised in a nuclear family, many do not have the joy of knowing about the spiritual family, the Church. It was in the heart and mind of God to not only create the human family, but also the spiritual family. He wanted there to be those who would be a part of His unique family - a family made up of those people who have become aware of their sin and need to turn from it to their Heavenly Father.

The Church is a group of people who have been called out from their sinful lives to a life with God as their focus. When Jesus asked Peter who He was, Peter responded with the truth: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. The Lord’s response to that statement was that Peter was correct, and upon this foundational truth, Jesus would build His Church.

What the Lord meant was that for all who will see and turn from their sin, they will be His children, His followers, His Church, and they will know Him for who He is. He is the living God. All who follow Him understand and know that.

I must say to be aware of that truth, like Peter stated, is to know the joy of being a part of His family. To know that we have a god who is the God of all creation and the universe as we know it, is the most wonderful and spiritually edifying truth there is.

So, you might be thinking that you didn’t have a family to grow up in to teach you these things about what a real family is. Or you might be saying, even now, at this point in your life that your family is basically nonexistent. Maybe you are saying that you don’t have anyone to call your family even now. Well, think about this truth - that is what the Church is for. The Church exists to worship and glorify God, but the Church also exists to be the place where God’s people have the family they never had and the family that will last for eternity.

If you have never put much thought into being a part of God’s family, the Church, can I encourage you to join with the physical family of God? Wouldn’t you like to be a part of all that happens within the church and see others as the children of God, the siblings or family you never had?

If you will make the Church your priority, not only will you be blessed personally, but your earthly family will be blessed also. Additionally, you will discover there is a whole other family out there waiting just for you.