

1-12-2025 Sunday Sermon Message
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16
Text: Matthew 16:13-18
Title: **The Church of God as the Body of Christ that the Gates of Hell Cannot Prevail**

God said He would build His Church on Christ Jesus, the Rock. Therefore, he declared that the gates of hell could not prevail over the authority he had given to the church he was establishing.

God hath made his power work in Christ, and hath raised him from the dead, and has seated him at the right hand of God in heaven, and has exalted him above every principality, power, power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come, and has put all things under his feet, and made him head over all creations, and has given it to the church. The Apostle Paul also testified that the church is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all things. (Ephesians 1:20-23)

God has saved the souls of Jews and Gentiles who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have made them Christians. Not only that, but the spirits of Christians whose sins have been forgiven through the blood of Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit so that they can become members of the body of Christ, the church.

Christians whose souls have been saved and whose spirits have been reborn by the Holy Spirit are also living in a physical body on the earth where the unsaved people of the world live. Therefore, Satan the Devil constantly attacks Christians who belong to the Church of God and tries to drag them to hell and sometimes even kills them, but the devil can never drag Christians who are born again and dwell in the Church of God to hell.

The devil tries to tempt Christians in God's church to sin in their bodies and drag them to hell, but they are already in the kingdom of God in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 14; 17)

The Apostle Paul testified clearly of this:

" Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."(Romans 8:33-39)

Apostle Paul gives a very important message to the saved saints who have become members of the body of Christ, who fills all things.

He said that they would understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ:

"That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

⁷ Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power."(Ephesians 3:6-7)

He also exhorts Christians to realize in the hope that, although they now live on the earth, a very small piece of land, they will do things that will fill all things with Christ:

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."(Ephesians 3:16-19)

As the day of Christ draws near, we can hear people expressing various views as to what kind of people going to be raptured as we look ahead to the imminent rapture. But we cannot judge according to people's opinions. Those who repent and believe the gospel of Christ, their souls are saved, their spirits are born again of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit indwells them, even though their spiritual life is lacking before God, and God sees the saved souls and the reborn spirits indwelling them in their bodies, and meets them in the air. This is because these people belong to Christ, and their spirits and souls have become one body with Christ and have become members of the Church of God.

However, Christians who are members of the Church of God must bear in mind that they must be judged at the judgment seat of Christ for what they have done with their bodies, and they must not forget that although their spirits and souls are already in the body of Christ, their bodies are still in the world, and they must fight against the devil who tries to tempt their bodies to sin. You have to live a victorious life.

This is why the Apostle Paul gave the last and most important message to the Ephesians:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."(Ephesians 6:10-19)

Amen! Hallelujah!