

“UPON THIS ROCK” / E. H. HERBMAN 109



**“UPON THIS ROCK...”
IT’S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.**


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“UPON THIS ROCK” / E. H. HERBMAN 110

Who is the Greatest?

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“UPON THIS ROCK” / E. H. HERBMAN 111



WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH?

Christ Jesus the “cornerstone, in whom the whole structure being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:20-21)

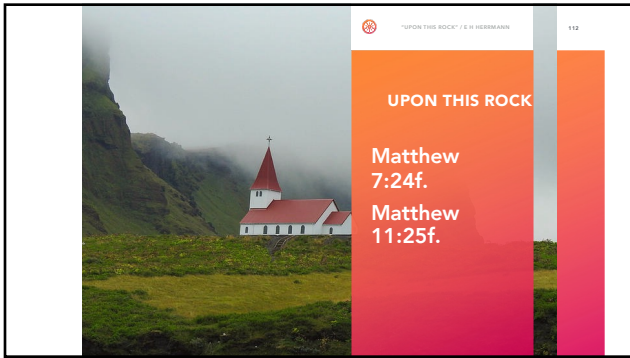
No one can lay a foundation other than which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:11)

“built on the foundation of their apostles and prophets ...”

“twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” (Rev. 21:14)

“You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church ...” (Mt. 16:18)

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Isaiah 28:15-18 (LXX)
 Because you have said, "We have made a **covenant with Hades** and agreements with death, if a **rushing storm** passes through, it will not come to us...deed, I will lay for the **foundations** of Zion a precious, choice stone, a highly valued cornerstone for its foundations, and the one who believes in him will not be put to shame... as for you who trust vainly in falsehood, I tell you that the **tempest** will not pass you by, lest it also take away your covenant of death. And your hope regarding **Hades** will not remain. If a **rushing storm** comes, you will be trampled down by it."

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UPON THIS ROCK

Matthew 7:24f.
Matthew 11:25f.


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Matthew 11:25f.
 At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and **revealed them to little children**, yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and **no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**"

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Mt. 16:15f.
 But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

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WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Mt. 18:1f
 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

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COMPANY

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UPON THIS ROCK / E. H. HERMANN 121



WHO IS THE GREATEST?

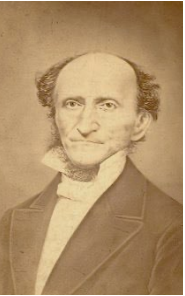
Mt. 20:25f.

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

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UPON THIS ROCK / E. H. HERMANN 122

WALTHER

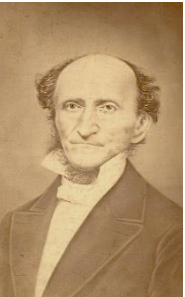


Perhaps all of us, the one more, the other less, are filled with concern by the thought that our deliberations might easily be unproductive; ... we have merely the power to **advise one another**, that we have only the **power of the Word**, and of **convincing**.

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UPON THIS ROCK / E. H. HERMANN 123

WALTHER



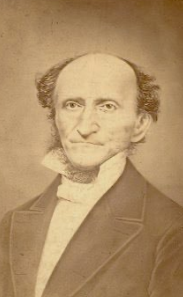
Because Christ has given His servants only this and no other power, and because even the holy apostles have **appropriated** to themselves no other power and therefore have seriously warned the servants of the church against claiming every other power.

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UPON THIS DAY HERBMAN

WALTHER

But Christ not only declares that He alone has the power in His church and exercises it by His Word, but He also expressly denies to all others any other power, any other authority to command in His church. ...**Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you** ...




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UPON THIS DAY HERBMAN

WALTHER

Perhaps there are times and conditions when it is profitable for the church to place the supreme deciding and regulating power into the hands of representatives. ... It is true, if our congregations had granted us full power to decide and decree in their name, it apparently would have been easy for us to give all of the congregations of our territory the form of truly Lutheran congregations, whereas with our present constitution our hands appear to be tied. ...

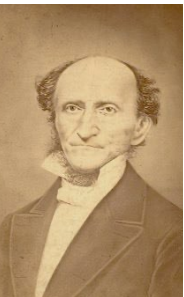


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UPON THIS DAY HERBMAN

WALTHER

But what would be the result if such congregations by their entrance into our organization had obligated themselves to submit to all of our orders? The exercise of our power would have laid the foundation for constant dissatisfaction, for constantly reviving fear of hierarchical efforts, and thus for endless friction.

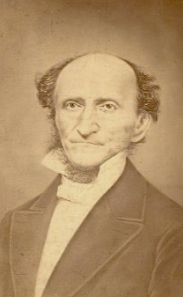


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UPON THIS DAY BY HERBMAN 127

WALTHER

Even though we possess no power, but that of the Word, we nevertheless can and should carry on our work joyfully. ... If we do this, we need not worry about the success of our labor. Even though it should seem to be in vain, it cannot then be in vain, for the Word does not return void but prospers in the thing whereto the Lord sent it.




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UPON THIS DAY BY HERBMAN 128

WALTHER

By the Word alone, **without any other power, the church was founded**; by the Word alone all the great deeds recorded in church history were accomplished; by the Word alone the church will most assuredly stand also in these last days of sore distress, to the end of days. **Even the gates of hell will not prevail against it.** "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the Word of the Lord endureth forever." Amen



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COMPANY 129



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