The Church Indestructible

Intro: Dan. 2:44 “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” God through the prophet Daniel told that the kingdom, church would be established, and once set up it would never be destroyed. When we think of the opposition Christ and the church had, it is indeed marvelous that the church even exist (Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”; Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”; Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”). Men could not stop the eternal purpose of God; Eph. 3:9-11 “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:” If the church had to depend just on the human element, the church would have ceased to exist. Why was the church indestructible?

I. IT IS BUILT ON THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST.

A. The Roman Catholic Church has long contended that the church was built on Peter.
   1. Mat. 16:13-19 “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
   2. 1 Pet. 2:25 “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.”

B. Based on the Sonship of Jesus.
   1. Mat. 16:16-18 “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
   2. Psa. 2:6-7 “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee.”
   3. Acts 13:33-37 “God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”
   4. Heb. 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”

C. And based on Jesus Deity.
   1. John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
2. John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” cf. Exo. 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”
3. Phi. 2:6 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”
4. Col. 1:17 “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

D. He thus has all authority or power.
1. Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
2. Eph. 1:20-23 “Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places; 21Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
3. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

E. The church is thus built by Him.
1. Psa. 127:1 “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”
2. 1 Cor. 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
3. Eph. 2:20 “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

II. It is Based On The Scriptures Which Shall Stand Forever.
A. It is not based on the dogmas, creeds, councils, synods, etc. of men.
1. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
2. Col. 2:20 “Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,”
3. Tit. 1:14 “Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.”

B. The Scriptures
1. Mat. 24:35 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”
2. 1 Pet. 1:24-25 “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: 25But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”
3. Luke 8:11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”
4. Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

III. God Keeps The Roll Book.
A. Human hands never touch it.
B. God adds us to the book.
1. Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
2. 1 Cor. 3:7 “So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”
C. God takes away from the book.
1. Rev. 3:1-5 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”
2. Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

IV. Things That War Against The Indestructible Church.
A. Lack of Bible knowledge.
1. Isa. 5:13 “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”
2. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
3. Hos. 8:12 “I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.”
4. One of the alarming facts concerning apostasy within the modern church is that innovations could enter many congregations and half the members would not even know it was wrong.
B. Worldliness.
1. Mat. 13:22 “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”
2. Tit. 2:12 “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
3. We overlook things just for the cause of numbers.
4. Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
2. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
3. We need to be demanding purity in the members of the church.
a. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
b. 1 Tim. 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”
C. When we slow down or stop our opposition to error.
1. Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
2. We are to reprove error; Eph. 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

3. Debate the error.
   a. Pro. 25:9 “Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:”
   b. Phi. 1:17 “But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.”

4. We are to hate evil; Amos 5:15 “Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

5. We slow down or stop our opposition when we:
   a. Just look for good.
      (1) We have some who say, “Just look for the good in the world and religion—be positive and don’t worry about error or you may become paranoid.”
      (2) Mark 12:24 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?”
   b. Desire smooth words.
      (1) Isa. 30:10 “Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:”
      (2) 2 Tim. 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;”

Conclusion: Let us be determined that the invincible church be known in all the earth; cf. Eph. 3:21 “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”