

The Preservation of the Church

Text: 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. (Matthew 16:18)

Belgic Confession, article 27: We believe... This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end, as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King who cannot be without subjects. And this holy church is preserved by God against the rage of the whole world, even though for a time it may appear very small in the eyes of men—as though it were snuffed out. For example, during the very dangerous time of Ahab the Lord preserved for himself seven thousand men who did not bend their knees to Baal. And so this holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons, but it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world, though still joined and united in heart and will, in one and the same Spirit, by the power of faith.

Intro: Guido de Bres

I. The Plan

Old covenant

New covenant

II. The Rock

III. The Threat

Jewish

Roman

Roman Catholic

IV. The Promise

Application 1: The Gates of Hell in Our Day

Application 2: The Gates of Hell & Our Church



Application 3: Arresting the Decline



Intentionality

Start

Look back

drift

Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day. (Psalm 25:4-5)