Note on Matthew xvi. 18.

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Mt. xvi. 18: καὶ ἐτί ταύτη τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μοι τὴν ἐκκλησίαν.


"There is no example, in good authors, of πέτρα in the sense of πέτρος, a stone." Liddell and Scott, p. 1207 i.

The above distinction, also held by some commentators on the N.T., can hardly be maintained, as the passage cited from Plato shows. Plato has been arguing the immortality of the soul. At present, he says, the soul is marred by association with the body and by contact with other evils.

In his comparison, τὸν ἐθάλασσιον Γαλακτόν, Plato must intend πέτρα in the sense of πέτρος, else the passage is unintelligible. Here, then, is one good classical reference to be cited against "some commentators" who advance the traditional rule.