

The Gospel of Christ The Rock, the Key, and the Weapon

The Rock: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* Matthew 16:16. With these words, Peter established forever what the “gospel of Christ” would be. Jesus confirmed Peter's statement; *“Flesh and blood hath not revealed this to you, but the Father which is in heaven”* verse 17. *“...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”* Matthew 16:18. With these words, Jesus established that the revelation of who He is, is the rock He builds His church upon. The apostle John confirms the gospel message many years later; *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”* 1 John 5:1. Paul would tell us in his “revelation” of Jesus Christ, *“...other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus (the) Christ”* 1 Corinthians 3:11.

The Key: *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...”* Matthew 16:19. The Greek word “kleis,” which was translated “keys,” is properly defined as “a key (*as shutting a lock*), literally or figuratively” Strong's Greek Dictionary. There is a single “key” to open the Kingdom of heaven for lost humanity. It is found in only four words; *“Jesus is the Christ.”* He who was “in the beginning with God” and “was God” became a man to take away “the sin” that entered into the world through the first man, Adam. Only the one “by whom” and “for whom” all things were created Colossians 1:16, could “take away” the sin that destroyed the first creation, and bring in a “New Creation.” In the New Creation, there is no serpent (the devil), and no sin. The apostle John testifies to this, saying, *“And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not...”* 1 John 3:5-6. Jesus said, *“Preach the gospel (Jesus is the Christ) to every creature.”* It will open the kingdom of heaven to those who believe it.

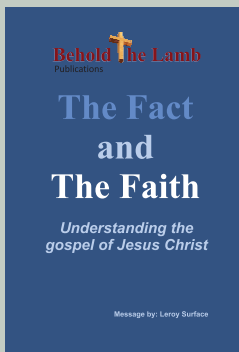
Jesus said *“But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in”* Matthew 23:13. The “scribes and Pharisees” were the most devout of all Jews.

They had so perfected themselves outwardly that Jesus said, *“...ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity”* Matthew 23:28. They did not believe the gospel (Jesus is the Christ), and they rejected those who did, thus they *“shut up the kingdom of heaven against men.”*

The Weapon: *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”* II Corinthians 10:4. The word “weapons” was translated from the Greek word “hoplon,” which is defined as “an implement or utensil or tool (literally or figuratively, especially offensive for war)” Strong's Greek Dictionary. Again, as with the “key,” we have only one “weapon,” which is “mighty through God” to pull down strongholds. The apostle continues in the next verse to define the “strongholds” which our “weapon” will pull down. *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* II Corinthians 10:5.

The modern religious thought is so confused on this issue of “spiritual warfare,” foremost because they do not know the battle is over, and the victory is won. It is God who *“giveth us the victory...”* 1 Corinthians 15:57 and *“always causeth us to triumph in Christ”* II Corinthians 2:14. God is not “looking for a man” to “raise an army” to “win the victory over sin and Satan.” That “man” was God's own Son, and He did not need an army to utterly destroy the devil Hebrews 2:14. God sent Christ into this world on a “rescue mission.” Through the death of His Son on the cross, God *has “...delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”* Colossians 1:13. That “kingdom” is Christ. The apostle John says, *“...in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not...”* 1 John 3:5-6. As there will be no sin and no devil in the “the new heavens and the new earth,” there is no sin or devil in the “kingdom of God's dear Son,” which is Christ, our dwelling place.

The “weapon of our warfare” is the gospel of Christ (Jesus is the Christ). If the devil can keep you busy “fighting the devil,” you will never experience the “righteousness, peace, and joy,” that is ours in the kingdom of God Romans 14:17. If we will “pick up” our weapon, however, and preach the gospel, every stronghold of the enemy will be cast down. Isaiah spoke of a time when men *“walk in darkness... groping as if they had no eyes...”* and looking for salvation, but it was “afar off” Isaiah 59:10-11. Truth was *“fallen in the streets”* and justice was *“standing afar off”* Isaiah 59:14. We who “know the truth” hold the answer for a lost and perishing world. Dust off your bible (KJV), and preach the gospel. Come out of the foolishness of man's religion, and preach to the entire world around you that “Jesus is the Christ” who came into the world to *“make and end of sins”* and *“bring in everlasting righteousness”* Daniel 9:27. Do not be moved by “the roaring” of those who fight against the truth of the gospel. Preach the gospel, stand upon it, and God Himself will stand with you.



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