

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 15, 2018

THE DOOR OF FAITH

When Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey, they spoke of the “*door of faith*” which God opened unto the Gentiles. Acts 14:24. This door is called the “*door of faith*” because only through believing the gospel of Christ does a person gain entrance into the Kingdom of God. As Paul would later write: “... ***we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***” Romans 5:2. On the outside of this door there is only darkness and bondage. There Satan devours and the inhabitants live under the dominion of sin. Yet those who pass through this door walk in liberty and victory. Their sin has been taken away | John 3:5, their hearts have been purified by faith Acts 15:9, and they find rest for their soul. Matthew 11:29. Satan does not exist inside this door, for it is the Kingdom of God. It is a land of “*righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*” Romans 14:17.

Jesus Christ became the door into the Kingdom of God when he shed his blood on the cross. Because he died for all, this “*door*” is available to everyone. But this door, like most doors, requires a key. Before any person can enter, someone must bring them the key that opens the door.

Jesus gave us insight into the “*key*” when he rebuked the lawyers, saying, “...*ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye*

hindered.” Luke 11:52. These “lawyers” were those who thought themselves experts in the Law of Moses. They were the theologians of their day. Jesus said they had “*taken away the key of knowledge.*” They had discarded the truth and replaced it with the commandments and doctrines of men. Mark 7:7. Because of this, neither they nor those who believed them could enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus speaks the same way to the scribes and Pharisees. He 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. In rejecting the truth, they had locked the Kingdom of God up against lost humanity. Because of this great offence, the “key” to the Kingdom of God was taken from them and given unto another. Matthew 21:43.

The “key of knowledge” Jesus spoke of is “*the knowledge of the truth.*” It is “*the truth,*” which Jesus said would make those who knew it free from sin. Isaiah had spoken of this truth saying, “*by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many;*” Isaiah 53:11. It is the knowledge of who Christ is and what he accomplished upon the cross and it is summed up in the words of Peter.

Peter’s great revelation was “*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Matthew 16:16. These simple words reveal the glorious truth of the gospel. To declare “*Jesus is the Christ*” is to declare He is the one whom God promised to come into the world and bruise the Serpent’s head, thereby destroying the works of the devil. | John 3:8. God said the Christ would “*make an end of*

sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness." Daniel 9:24-25. He was not just a natural man, but he is the Son of God, the "WORD" made flesh!

The revelation that "*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*" contains such power and truth that Jesus said "*upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" Matthew 16:18. This simple truth is the foundation of the church. Of all the doctrines men hold up to be great truth, this is the only one Jesus said he would build his church upon. Though it is simple, the church built upon it will overcome even "*the gates of hell.*"

When Jesus told Peter this revelation was the "*rock*" he would build his church upon, he also made another amazing statement. His next words were: "*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*" Matthew 16:19. I have to point out that in the Greek text there is no word for "*will*", and the word translated "*keys*" is not plural. Jesus actually told Peter "*I give you the key of the kingdom of heaven.*" Not only is this revelation of Jesus Christ the foundation of the church, it is also the "*key*" that unlocks the door of the Kingdom of God. Beginning on the day of Pentecost, the apostles preached "*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*" everywhere they went. In doing so they were unlocking the Kingdom of God unto men.

This "*key to the kingdom*" came with both great promise and great warning. Wherever they preached it, the door to the kingdom of heaven

was opened to everyone who believed the gospel. Using the “key,” what they “loosed on earth was loosed in heaven.” Everywhere it was preached, the “door of faith” was opened unto men.

On the other hand, if they, like the lawyers, scribes, and Pharisees, refused to preach the truth of Christ, the kingdom of God would be shut up unto men. In withholding the truth they would “bind” up the Kingdom of God on earth, and it will also be “bound in heaven.” If the disciples would not have preached the gospel, the door to the Kingdom of God would have been closed and the whole world would have died in their sins. This “key” is now given unto us. Take up the key. Declare the truth of Christ and unlock the “door of faith” for those who will believe the truth and enter in!