

## The Key To Life – 2/02/24

**TEXT- Matthew 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? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 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. 18 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. 19 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.*

**Revelation 1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

**INTRO – The key to life and its problems is knowing Jesus Christ. He is the key to everything. Psalms 46:1** *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

**All the information on success, philosophy, counsel, and human reasoning become nothing at or before death. But the Bible remains to bless us and guide us. 1 Peter 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: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

Keys provide solutions to open something. Jesus rebukes the Jewish leaders: **Luke 11:52** *Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.*

Many people have a ring of keys and they don't know what they open if anything. Children may use them to play with.

Man has a longing for life and the hereafter. There is the suspicion that something lies beyond death. But many do not know what it is. What key unlocks the door to immortality? There is only one key that unlocks the future life: Jesus Christ.

### I. Keys That Don't Work

#### A. The theory that death ends all.

This idea is promoted by atheist, communists, and others. This belief suggests that man is nothing more than an animal with no soul. Atheism says this is all there is to a man, and when his body dies it is all over. But where is the person that lived in that body? Where is the life, the person? The life that

acts, wills, and decides is the soul that God breathed into life. Is man just a mass of tissue and cells? Or is there more? This key opens no lock.

#### B. The theory of a second chance after death.

1. There is no authenticated person in history that can confirm this idea. It is pure speculation.

2. Nowhere does the Bible teach this. Not in any other history book.

#### C. The theory of soul sleep after death.

The Bible refers to those departed as asleep, but the reference is to the body not the spirit.

**Luke 23:43** *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

**Death is an act not a state, a passage not a condition.**

**It is stepping across the boundary line of eternity.**

**D.L. Moody said, "One day you will read in the paper that D.L. Moody of Northfield Massachusetts died. Don't believe it. I will be more alive than ever before."**

**On his grave marker the verse 1 John 2:17 . . . he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

#### D. The theory of annihilation.

These proponents believe that when one dies, they will cease to be and that hell is not eternal.

Science speaks of the "Law of Conservation of energy." No energy or force is ever destroyed. It may change form but it is never destroyed. Water can turn to ice or steam but it is always somewhere in some form.

#### E. The theory of purgatory.

There is no Greek New Testament word for purgatory. The word comes from Latin.

**2 Corinthians 5:8** *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Here are many keys that fit no locks and open no doors.

#### F. The theory of reincarnation.

The belief that held by ancient Greeks and Egyptians and today by Buddhists and Hindus is known as transmigration of the soul. Sometimes referred to as the re-embodiment of the soul. This theory brings no comfort or hope to anyone.

### II. The Key Is The Word of God

The alternative to these false ideas is the resurrection. This truth brings hope, retention of personality, life, and existence.

**The Bible is the truth and the very Word of God. It is the infallible Word of God.**

- It is scientifically correct
- It is historically correct
- Changed lives – A life of peace and fulfillment
- Failure to follow the principles of the Word of God bring confusion and chaos to the world.
- The strength of the family unit is intertwined with the practice of Christianity. Church goers are more likely to be married, less likely to be divorced or single, and more likely to manifest high levels of satisfaction in marriage.
  - Regular church attendance, for example, is particularly in helping young people to escape the poverty of inner-city life.
  - Christian belief and practice contribute substantially to the formation of personal moral criteria and sound moral judgment.
  - Christianity generally protects individuals against a host of social problems, including suicide, drug abuse, out-of-wedlock births, crime, and divorce.

The Bible provides a superior way of life.

### III. The Key To Peace and Satisfaction Is Found In a Personal Relationship With God.

God sent His son to die for your sins.

Salvation is Christ is the only key that works.

**CONCL –**

I place no value on anything that I have or possess, except in relation to the Kingdom of God. -- David Livingstone