

# THE TRUE GOSPEL

## 100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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26.

### THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 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.

Mat 16:18 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.

Mat 16:19 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.

Note: One of the greatest controversies in Christianity is what Jesus meant by these words.

#### 1. THE ROCK

The Catholic Church believes the rock upon which the Church is built is Peter, the first Pope. But notice in verse 18 that Jesus did not say directly to Peter, "YOU are the rock". What Jesus did say was, "Upon this rock (Greek - petra) I will build my Church." In the New Testament the word 'Petros' (never petra) is used for the name Peter. The Catholic Church says Petros and petra are just masculine and feminine forms of the same word, a large craggy rock. Others say that Petros is a small stone while petra is a large craggy rock. Since Petros is never used other than for the name Peter, the meaning of it as either a large rock or small stone cannot be proved.

What can be proved is that Jesus said the church is built upon petra. Peter himself said that the rock (petra) is Jesus Christ in 1Peter 2:7-8. 1Cor 10:4 also confirms that rock (petra) is Jesus Christ. And Jesus said in Mat 7:24-25, after giving about 50 of his teachings in the sermon on the mount, that if we build our spiritual house on these, his teachings, we are building it on solid rock (petra).

#### 2. THE GATES OF HELL

What are the 'gates of hell' that shall never prevail against the church? The Catholic Church believes this means that the power of Satan will never prevail because the Pope has infallibility. The word 'hell' here is the Greek 'hades' meaning 'the grave', and is the same word translated 'grave' in 1Cor 15:55. Thus the 'gates of the grave' shall never prevail against the Church. This means that it will never DIE OUT, not that the Pope is given infallibility from error.

Because no one is infallible from error, we are all responsible to search the scriptures and rightly divide them to prove the truth of what we are taught.

\* 2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

And we are warned in the scriptures to beware of deception.

\* Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Mat 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

\* 2Ti 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

### 3. THE KEYS

What are the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus gave to Peter? The Catholic Church says that they are keys of authority and gives Isa 22:22 in reference.

\* Isa 22:22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

But see what Peter himself wrote in 2Pe 1:5-11. A key gives entrance into the Kingdom. Notice that these principles if followed, assure us an ENTRANCE into the kingdom. These principles must therefore be the keys to the Kingdom that Jesus gave to Peter.

\* 2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, (i.e. faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity) ye shall never fall:

2Pe 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### 4. BINDING AND LOOSING

Finally, in regards to binding and loosing, Jesus gave Peter the assurance that God is working with his Church in that Peter's judgments, whatever he bound or loosed, would be honored in Heaven. But binding and loosing must be done within the context of God's will. The Church has no permission to 'bind' heavy and burdensome rules on people such as the Pharisees did, for example.

\* Mat 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay [them] on men's shoulders; but they [themselves] will not move them with one of their fingers.

Nor does the Church have permission to 'loose' commandments of God.

\* Pro 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Pro 6:21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, [and] tie them about thy neck.

\* Hab 1:4 Therefore the law is slacked (loosed), and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

Mat 18:15-18 is another scripture explaining how binding and loosing applies to ALL Church members, not just Peter. And their judgments will be honored in heaven if they follow this formula showing how to resolve disputes between themselves.

\* Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.