

“The Kingdom of God!”

Part 17: “The Church and the Keys of the Kingdom!”



Matthew 16:13-28, 17:1-8, 24:14, 25:31-46

Introduction: The Church is God’s chosen instrument in the world today to establish His eternal kingdom !

The Keys of the Kingdom of God have been entrusted to the Church in the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

God’s Word is given to teach, to rebuke, to correct and to train God’s people. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

I. Jesus is God’s anointed King!

The entire purpose of God is confirmed in this one statement: “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!*” (Matthew 16:16).

The very existence of the one true Church stands or falls on the truth that JESUS IS God’s anointed King!

Psalm 2:1-12: “*The kings of the earth ... and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed ...*” but GOD says, “*As for me, I have set MY King on Zion, my holy hill*” (vss. 2,6).

Isaiah 9:6-7: “*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder ... on the throne of David and over His kingdom ...*”

Micah 5:2 ... Out of Bethlehem would come forth one who is to be Ruler in Israel.

Zechariah 9:9: “*Behold, your King is coming to you ...*”

Matthew 16:17-18: “*... and on THIS rock I will build my Church!*”

Peter is not the “rock” upon which Jesus will build His Church, but rather, his confession that Jesus is the Christ, God’s anointed King!!

It all comes down to this: “ WHO IS JESUS ??? ”

II. The CHURCH is God’s anointed people!

Jesus was sent by the Father to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin and then, by sending His Spirit, to gather for Himself a “people,” a remnant from mankind.

The Greek word for “church” is “*ekklesia*,” and its literal meaning is the “ called - out ones . ”

Anyone can be part of the organization called the “church,” but GOD determines who is part of the CHURCH and this is HIS requirement: Jesus must be confessed as His anointed King !

All who make this confession from their hearts have been anointed by God’s Spirit, born again ... “*new creations*” in Christ Jesus.

John 1:12-13: “*To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born ... of GOD !!!*”

Romans 8:14-17: “*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*” (vss. 14,16; see also I Corinthians 12:3,13).

II Corinthians 1:21-22: “*It is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also ... given us His Spirit ...*” (see also Ephesians 1:13-14).

I John 2:20,27: “*But YOU (believers) have been anointed by the Holy One ... the anointing you received from Him abides in you ...*”

When God calls people to believe in Jesus Christ it includes a call to live as part of His Body !

Ephesians 1:15-23: “*And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as Head over all things to the Church ...*” (vs. 22).

III. The Gospel is God’s anointed message!

The “*keys of the kingdom*” is none other than the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Luke 24:45-47; Acts 4:11-12: “*... there is no other name under heaven, given among men, by which we must be saved !*” (Acts 4:12).

Matthew 24:14: “*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony ...*”

Matthew 25:31-34: “*Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you!*” (vs. 34).