

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.



Matthew 16:13-17 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

- The Jews had not come to a reality of the Lord's identity.
- To the Jews He was merely a prophet.

¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you (y'all) say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are ***the*** Christ, ***the*** Son of ***the*** living God.”

“You are ***the*** Christ. . .

- Peter believed that He was Israel's promised Messiah – the One prophesied to come forth from David and rule the kingdom.

. . . ***the*** Son of ***the*** living God.”

¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal ***this*** to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

Peter did not come to this spiritual reality on his own!

- The Father revealed it to Peter.

- God must reveal things to us today from His infallible Word in order for us to attain the *fullness of Christ*.
- God reveals these things to us by the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 16:18 “I also say to you that you are *a stone*, and upon this rock I will build My church. . .”

- Peter is going to be used in the foundation of the church which is the body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house [*Church – the body of Christ*] for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

POD review: Christ builds His Church through the baptism of God the Holy Spirit when a person simply believes (Eph. 5:23; Col 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:12-13).

You become a living stone in the Church at faith alone in Christ alone through the baptism of God the Holy Spirit.

Peter did not understand this when Christ said to Him – “*you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church.*”

POD: The Lord reveals things to us progressively as we continue to feed upon His Word.

Matthew 16:18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, (Πέτρος - a *small stone* cut from a larger one that will be used in building the foundation to the Church) and upon this rock (πέτρα - confession of faith that God revealed to Peter in grace) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

In personal evangelism you do not have the ability to make spiritual truth perspicuous to the unbeliever!

Your job is to simply put out the spiritual truth of the Gospel – “*foolishness to those who are perishing.*”

- Gates are designed to keep someone out or to keep someone in.
- The Jewish frame of reference understood the gates of Hades as physical death.
- Once you died, those gates kept you in Hades – you could not open those gates.

Hades had three compartments:

1. The first compartment of Hades is Paradise – “Abraham’s bosom.”
 - ❖ What did the Lord say to the thief on the cross in **Luke 23:43**?
 - ❖ “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”
 - ❖ Paradise was in Hades.

Luke 16:19-31 “Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. ²² Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom [*Paradise*]; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment . . .

2. The second compartment of Hades is Torments.

. . . and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham [*this man is a descendant of Abraham; he is Jewish*], have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’

- ❖ Torments is where all those who reject the Gospel go when they die until the Great White Throne Judgment (**Rev. 20:11-15**).

²⁵ “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that none may cross over from there to us.*’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

- ❖ There was no getting out of Hades unless one is resurrected.
- ❖ In resurrection, the soul and spirit are returned from Hades to the body.

Christ was in PARADISE for three days while His body lay in the tomb.

Matthew 16:18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

- Gates of Hades will not overpower the Church.
- The Church is the body of Christ of which we are all a part.
- We have victory over death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:17-18 “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

- Keys convey authority.
- If Jesus Christ holds the keys [*and He does*] to unlock the gates of Hades, He has the power to resurrect.
- The gates of Hades did not keep Him in because He has the keys.
- Therefore, the gates of Hades will not overpower the Church of which those of us who have believed in Him are part. You should take great comfort in that!

“ . . . he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” **John 11:25**

3. The third compartment of Hades is Tartaros (**2 Peter 2:4**).

- ❖ This houses fallen angels who violated the laws of warfare that God established for the Angelic Conflict - **Jude 6** **And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,**

Three Compartments of Hades:

1. Paradise – “Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22; 23:43) - BELIEVERS
2. Torments (Luke 16:23) - UNBELIEVERS
3. Tartaros (2 Peter 2:4) - FALLEN ANGELS

- Paradise is no longer in Hades today as it was emptied by Christ and is now in His presence in the third heaven (**2 Corinthians 12:2 cf. 12:4**).
- When a fellow believer dies, they go directly into the presence of Christ in the third heaven - Paradise.

Matthew 16:18 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;

- Keys – κλεις – KLEIS – Key
 - A key is used to lock and unlock something.
 - The one who possesses the keys has authority.
- Jesus Christ is telling Peter that He will convey His authority upon him.
 - “I will give you the keys” – future tense.
 - The disciples would all be given His authority.

... and whatever you bind on earth

- To bind – δεω – DEO - *To forbid something*
 - Peter and the disciples would be given Christ’s authority to forbid things.
 - This authority was exercised through their teaching, preaching, and writing under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit.
 - Two examples of binding are found every time the apostles forbid something.
 - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (**Ephesians 4:30**).
 - Do not be bound together with unbelievers (**2 Corinthians 6:14**).

Matthew 16:19 - *Corrected translation* - “. . . whatever you **forbid through doctrine** on earth shall have **already been forbidden** in heaven,

- The disciples will be given apostolic authority to teach what has already been prepared by God for the Church.
- God is going to reveal doctrine to them and they are going to communicate it.

. . . and whatever you **loose** on earth. . .

➤ **Loose** – λύω – LUO – *To untie or set free*

- They will have authority to set people free to that which they were bound prior to the Church Age.
- The Lord has in mind a transition from the Age of Israel *to* the Church Age.

The Age of Israel was a Covenant of Works (LAW); the Church Age is a Covenant of Faith (GRACE).

Some believers will have lived in both dispensations.

The Apostles must have the authority to set people free from the practices of the former (LAW) in exchange for the latter (GRACE).

- The book of Acts deals with believers getting up to speed in this new dispensation.
- The disciples are binding and loosing through the doctrine they are communicating.

Galatians 5:18 - you are not under the Law.

Romans 6:14 – you are not under law but under grace.

. . . and whatever you loose [*untie or set free*] on earth [*during your ministry through what you teach*] shall have **already** been loosed in heaven [*in the dispensation of the Church*].”

Remember that God established all doctrine in the Divine Decree – in eternity past!

²⁰ Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ [*Messiah*].

Why is that?

- The Davidic kingdom is now going to be postponed in light of the rejection of Messiah by the people.
- This is the last chapter of His earthly ministry.
- God has a new building project that He has just revealed to Peter.
- That new project is the Church.

He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

- Because Messiah’s rule was now postponed
- He is heading to one place which is the will of the Father – the purpose for which Christ was born.

Hebrews 10:9 "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL."

Hebrews 10:5 "A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.