

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 16:13-19.**
- B. In our text Jesus says that Peter has the keys to the kingdom. What are these keys? Are they important? Can we find out when they are to be used?
- C. This sermon discusses the coming of X's spiritual kingdom, the keys to get into that kingdom.

## I. WHEN WILL (DID) THE KINGDOM ARRIVE?

- A. X's spiritual kingdom did not arrive during the OT times.
- B. X's spiritual kingdom did not arrive during John the Baptist's ministry (Mt. 3:1-2).  
*Now in those days John the Baptist came<sup>^</sup>, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
- C. The kingdom did not arrive at Jesus baptism or the beginning of His ministry (Mt. 4:17).  
*From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
- D. Luke records for us the words of X, and He said the kingdom would come during the lifetime of the apostles. Therefore, it is not a future kingdom yet to come (Lk. 9:27).  
*"But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."*
- E. Mark also records this and adds that it will come with great power (Mk. 9:1). We don't know yet what the power is, but just that it will come with power.  
*And He was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."*
- F. Luke then records that this power will come after the d,b,r of X (Lk. 24:49). This power is a promise from the Father.  
*"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*
- G. There will be preaching for the remission of sins to all nations in Jerusalem when the power comes (Lk. 24:47).  
*and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*
- H. And when the kingdom does come, Peter is to have the keys to that kingdom or church. The church is not built on Peter (see Mt. 16:13-19).
- I. In summary; X's spiritual kingdom will arrive:
  - 1. During the lifetime of the apostles.
  - 2. With great power from the Father.
  - 3. In Jerusalem.
  - 4. When all nations have gathered.
  - 5. With preaching for the remission of sins.
  - 6. And Peter is said to have the keys to the kingdom.

## II. THE KINGDOM ARRIVES!

- A. The apostles had not yet received power at the ascension of X (Ac. 1:8).  
*"but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*
- B. X's spiritual kingdom arrived on the Day of Pentecost:
  - 1. Obviously, it was in the apostles' lifetime.
  - 2. The great power was the baptism of the HS on the Twelve (Ac. 2:1-4).  
*And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit*

- was giving them utterance.
3. All of the nations were represented in Jerusalem (Ac. 2:5).  
Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
  4. There was preaching for the remission of sins (Ac. 2:22-36, 38, 40).  
(Ac. 2:36) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."  
(Ac. 2:38) And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
(Ac. 2:40) And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

### III. THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM?

- A. The keys were to be possessed by Peter (Mt. 16:19).  
"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
- B. Peter preached the first gospel sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Ac. 2:14).
- C. The "keys to the kingdom" is the great command in Ac. 2:38. Baptism is how one is added to the church and therefore enters X's spiritual kingdom.
  1. We are baptized into X (Rom. 6:3).  
Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
  2. We are clothed with X when we are baptized into Him (Gal. 3:27).  
For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

### IV. MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH MEANS BEING IN THE KINGDOM.

- A. The church was purchased by Jesus' blood (Ac. 20:28).  
"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
- B. X's spiritual kingdom was purchased by Jesus' blood (Rev. 5:9,10).  
And they sang^ a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou was slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10  
"And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."
- C. Now, either Jesus died twice (which is absurd) or the church is X's spiritual kingdom.
- D. On the final day that Jesus will return (deliver) the kingdom to the Father (1Cor. 15:24).  
then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Unless we have obeyed the keys to the kingdom we are not in the kingdom.
- B. Peter went further and said that baptism is what saves (1Pet. 3:21).  
And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,...
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.