

WHERE'RE MY KEYS

(Ps. 119:18)

Introduction:

1. The title of this morning's sermon has probably been uttered (or muttered) by everyone at one time or another. The universal nature of this utterance proves the important role of keys in our lives. The "muttering" proves the constant need to know where our keys are.
2. Because of this reality, the Bible uses the concept of "keys" in helping us in our quest for salvation.
3. Let us this morning consider what the Bible teaches us about salvation via admonitions regarding our Lord's keys, and our own keys.

Discussion:

I. Our Lord's Keys

- A. The keys to our heart.
 1. Jesus died for us, in our place, so that we might be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:14ff).
 2. Jesus did this and God sent Him to do this while we were weak and helpless in our rebellion (Rom. 5:8-10).
- B. The keys to the kingdom.
 1. The belief/confession that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:14-19).
 2. Peter used the keys in Acts 2 (admission of the Jews) and Acts 10 (admission of Gentiles).
 3. Peter made sure that Christians had a reminder of the keys (2 Pet. 1:15).
- C. The keys to life after death (Rev. 1:9-18; John 6:40; 14:6; Rom. 6:23; et al).

II. Our Keys

- A. The keys to repentance.
 1. Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:2-15; cp. Acts 2:4-37).
 2. An honest look in the mirror (2 Cor. 13:5; Jas. 1:22-25).
- B. The keys to the kingdom.
 1. Understanding admission into the kingdom (Rom. 5:1, 2, 17; 6:2-4, 17, 18).
 2. Faithfull submission to the commands of our Lord and Savior and God, Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 6:46; 2 Tim. 2:19 = Gal. 4:9; et al).
- C. The keys to life after death.
 1. Continuing faithful to the Lord unto death; until we die and even if it causes us to die (Rev. 2:10; 3:21).
 2. Not allowing anything to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:8; 8:31-39).

Conclusion:

1. Into our hands the Gospel is given...
2. With the full knowledge of the love of God, the Kingdom admissions requirements, and the truth about life after death; what will we do with all these key?
 - a. Will we allow the truth of God's love to open our heart, and keep it open?
 - b. Will we desire citizenship in the kingdom more than the sparkle of gold and approval of men?
 - c. Will we walk with the Lord-PERIOD-and never stop until we are gathered together with the saints who walked before us?
3. Truly Christ is at the door knocking, pleading, and waiting.
4. Invitation.

MORE ON “WHERE ARE MY KEYS?”

1. Some “keys” to our heart.
 - God created all the universe for us to dwell within and created us in His very image (Gen. 1:26).
 - This creation was good and then very good until we ruined it by choosing sin over loving obedience to God (Eccl. 3:11; Matt. 5:45; et al).
 - God showed mercy and allowed for a substitution to pay the price for our sin (Gen. 3:16; 22:18; Is. 53; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 John 2:2; et al).
 - God has revealed Himself to us from the beginning and fully revealed Himself by coming in the flesh to humbly die in our place.
 - God calls all to come home and be saved, but forces none. LOVE!!!

2. Some “keys” to the kingdom.
 - Rom. 10:17; John 8:24; Luke 13:3, 5; Rom. 10:10; Mk. 16:16; Rev. 2:10.
 - Matt. 5:3-16ff.
 - Luke 9:23.
 - If we allow God to be God, He will allow us to be His people (Hos. 1; 2:21-23; Rom. 9:25-32).

3. Some “keys” to life after death.
 - At its most basic those who are with God here and now will be with God there and then.
 - To be with God in heaven forever we must be “like” God. Light and darkness cannot be together, nor can God and sin (that which is not of God). Note this principle played out in scripture: 1 Pet. 1:13-16 (Lev. 11:44); Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; John 14:9; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 2 Tim. 2:2; et al.

4. Some closing thoughts on the use of “keys”.
 - Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 25-29; 3:5, 6, 11-13, 20-22.