

authority by His word

SEPTEMBER 2020

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

Truly we are living in the last days and I find it extremely important for us as believers to find a good church, get into it and get involved! Paul told Timothy that the church is “of the Living God, the pillar (what supports a large structure) and ground (that which supports the pillars) (being) of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness”. (1 Tim 3:15-16) But the next chapter tells us that satan wants to invade the church with deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. (1 Tim 4:1)

It's very important to find out how God wants His church to be established. We need to be responsible for the guidelines and principles of understanding of the local church we commit ourselves to. The church is called the Body of Christ in the earth and is to function with its head located in heaven. I've been in the ministry 49 years and never witnessed a successful believer that was independent of a local church.

I never took church seriously until God called me to pastor a local church in our community. Boy did I learn a lot, and I still continue to gain knowledge every day. One thing that has stuck to me is what Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18-19** that He would build His church in such a way that the gates (government structure) of hell, will not be victorious against it. **Verse 19** states that Jesus has given authority to the church, and that it (the church) now holds the keys.

In ancient times, the steward of a wealthy family, especially of the royal household, was given a key in recognition of his office. Therefore, the phrase referring to giving a person the key was an expression of raising him up to access the same authority and power as the householder. **Verse 19** is very interesting as to how it is worded in the original Greek text. “And I will give you the keys ... authority and power of the kingdom of the heavens” (plural), in all three realms. Matthew uses this term a lot. The first realm is where we live, the second realm is the spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places above the earth, and the third realm is heaven itself.

Take notice of the working relationship we have been given in His authority and power! In **verse 19** Jesus tells us “whatever you bind on the earth shall be as having been bound in the heavens (plural), and whatever you loose on the earth shall be as having been loosed in the heavens” (plural). Glory to God! This is

what the church has been called to do: to free mankind from the powers of darkness.

This means we can pray with **boldness** for our families, children, relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors etc. This verse should have been translated respectfully “as having been bound and having been loosed already in the heavens.” The church in the earth is now carrying out heavens decisions. I loved what I heard one minister say “if we would stop fighting each other we might get a shot at the devil”. This gives us a clearer understanding of **Ephesians 6:10-20**. The theme of the entire book is about the church as a family.

As a family, Christ is the head of the church (family), He is the savior of the body. The Book of Ephesians is progressive in nature. I have listed a brief summary on the theme of each chapter.

Chapter 1: How the church was known in eternity past as the plan of God.

Chapter 2: How Jesus died to produce it, as a family.

Chapter 3: The church was a mystery in God, but revealed in Christ.

Chapter 4: How to walk with each other until the ministry gift brings you to maturity.

Chapter 5: How we function as a body in comparison to a marriage, children, parents, worldly authority.

Chapter 6: The matured saints ability to pray for the church body until they are on their own.

I pray this month's newsletter gave you some insight on the authority you've been given as part of the Body of Christ in the Earth. We will continue on this subject next month.

JANN T. BUTLER

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE AND NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE AND NO ONE COMES TO THE