

Tom's Pen

"The Key of David"

by Tom Wacaster

We decided to get our walking in early that morning. Before the dogs were turned out for their morning run; before the morning traffic made its presence known in the neighborhood; before the sun had completely filled the morning sky. Start early, finish early, and get on with the day's activities. Like most houses, our front door has two locks: the top dead bolt takes a key to lock, but the bottom is automatic; just push the button and close the door behind you. This I did as we walked out the door. And as the door closed it dawned upon me that I was now outside, but my keys were inside. What a sinking feeling. Needless to say we immediately sought entrance into the house by some other means than the front door. But all the windows were closed and locked, and there we stood, on the outside looking in, with no means of entrance into our house. The only recourse we had was to contact a locksmith and have him work his "magic" and provide entrance. That day we learned the value of a "key." Jesus described Himself as "he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and none shall shut, and that shutteth and none openeth" (Rev. 3:7). This descriptive phrase of our Lord finds its roots in the Old Testament. David was perhaps the greatest king to ever reign over Israel. Inspiration tells us he was a "man after God's own heart." Upon his death, the throne was passed down to his son Solomon, then to Hezekiah who placed the authority "over the house" into the hands of Shebna, a servant and treasurer to the king. But Shebna misused his authority and embezzled funds for selfish purposes. He was thus removed from the land, and Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah, took his place. Many promises were given to Eliakim, including the "key of the house of David" (Isaiah 22:22). The promises and privileges granted to Eliakim were prophetic of our Lord, Who was granted all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18-20). Consider these important truths associated with having the "key of David."

First, note there is only one key. Christ is THE way, THE truth, and THE life (John 14:6). There is only one body (Eph. 4:4). There are not a multiplicity of keys. Only ONE. And if any man desires entrance into that heavenly home, he must gain access to that one, single, solitary key, or an identical copy of the same. Hence, he must go to Jesus!

Second, each of the apostles were granted a key, and together they possessed the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19). Each key, of necessity, would have to be identical so as to "fit" the same lock. The "doctrine of the apostles" (Acts 2:42) is not a conglomeration of conflicting and contradictory statements, but of harmony and unity, leading men to the Door of the sheepfold. If men would come to the Christ today and thereby enter into the sheepfold, they must do so with the "keys" left by the apostles.

Third, any "key" that would seek to unlock the door and gain admission must be identical with the key given unto our Lord. Any deficiency in the cut of the key will not activate the tumblers and unlock the bolt. To be sure, Satan has sought to deceive men into thinking that his key is as effective as the real one. And the more one knows what the real key looks like, the more Satan's key will have to conform to the original. But no matter how close it may get to the original, if it is not the original, it is of no value.

Fourth, any misuse of that key, or blessings and privileges associated with it, will result in the loss of the key. When Shebna abused his authority, the key was taken away from him and given unto Eliakim. When brethren and churches go beyond the God-given boundaries, the key will be taken away from them. The candlestick will be removed (Rev. 2:5). Any claim laid to association with God will be forfeited, and they will find themselves on the outside looking in. All efforts to find access will be to no avail. Many an individual, and many a congregation of God's people, have slowly drifted from the old paths. They have exchanged the key of entrance into that heavenly home for a key of beauty, popularity, excitement, and emotion. Though it may appear beautiful to the eye, it has no value or power to open the door of entrance into God's presence. Beloved, why not make your calling and election sure? Take a close look at the "key" to which you so faithfully cling. Does it match the "key of David"? Will it give you entrance into that final abode when you cross the sea of life and land on the shores of eternity? When you stand before the judgment bar of God Almighty, and the door is shut, should you be on the outside looking in, you will have eternity to remember that when God shuts the door, "none openeth."