

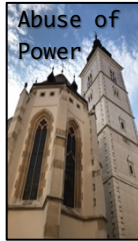
The Keys of the Kingdom (Continued...)

✦ Limitations to the Authority of the Church's Power:

↪ The church does not have authority on its own to invent new standards about what is morally right and wrong, for the authority to define **right** and **wrong** belongs to God alone (see Rom. 1:32; 2:16; 3:4-8; 9:20; Ps. 119:89, 142, 160; Matt. 5:18).⁷

↪ Examples of Abuse:

- ☆ The Pharisees and religious leaders
(See Mark 7:1-13; Matthew 23:1-33)
- ☆ The Roman Catholic Church and their traditions of penance and indulgences; the Crusades!



The Power of the CHURCH and the Power of the STATE.

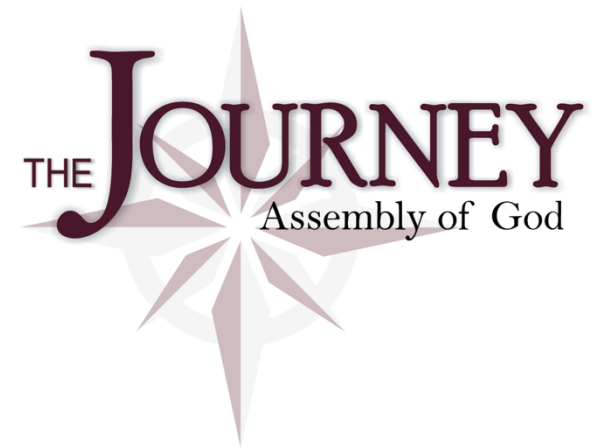
✦ Should the church ever use physical force (e.g., weapons and armies) to carry out its mission? "Take up the Sword"⁸

- ↪ Luke 22:35-38 ~ "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."
- ↪ John 18:10-11; Luke 22:51-53 ~ "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"
- ↪ The makeup of Jesus' Kingdom is not currently of this world (John 18:35-37; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:12)

✦ So what about the State, Federal and Civil Government Roles in Exercising Authority & Power?

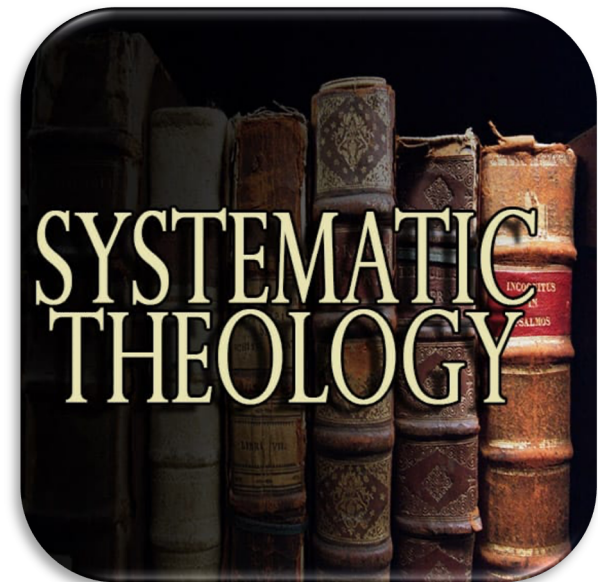
- ↪ Romans 13:1-7 ~ God's gives the civil government the right to bear the sword to restrain and punish evil in our world.
- ↪ However, at the same time, there is no indication that the power of government is to be used to enforce adherence to Christianity, or any religion for that matter, upon any people (Luke 9:54-55).
- ↪ Exceptions granted to obeying civil government: Exodus 1:15-22; Daniel 3:1-30; 6:1-28; Acts 4:1-31; 5:12-29.

Let Us RISE UP and Exercise the SPIRITUAL POWER and AUTHORITY We Have From God.



MESSAGE GUIDE

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: April 21, 2024



Message Talk Sheet

Date: April 21, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

SERIES: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
FOR DAILY LIVING

*"A Practical Look at the Study of God &
Elements of Biblical & Spiritual Truth"*

Today's Message:

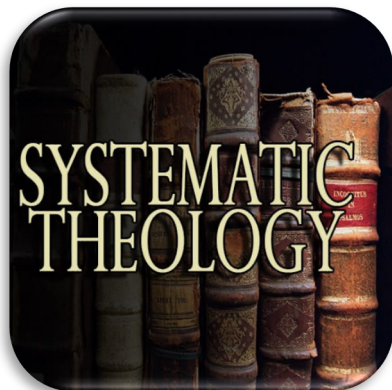
ECCLESIOLOGY (Part 11)

The Doctrine of the New Testament Church:

The Purpose of the Church

[Part B – "It's Power: Lesson #2 – The Keys of the Kingdom / Church & State"]

Scriptures: Matthew 16:13-19; 18:15-18; Luke 22:35-53; John 18:10-37;
Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4



ECCLESIOLOGY ~ "The Doctrine of the New Testament Church"

Our Privilege: The Study of God's Word

✘ The Bible in America is a massive industry (\$2.5 billion) yet it is the best seller few read and [even] fewer understand. ¹



↳ Of over 2 billion Christians in the world, less than **30%** will ever read through the entire Bible.

↳ Over **82%** of Christian Americans only read their Bibles on Sundays while in church.

↳ In recent studies, the Pew research indicates that only **25%** of Americans now attend church any given Sunday, **significantly down from 47% in 1990.** ³

↳ In the American Bible Society's 2022 report it showed the number of Bible users **had dropped nearly 26 million** in the previous year. That's a drop of ten points — to an unprecedented low of **39%** — and remained the same in 2023. ⁴

Review: The Power of the Church...

✘ A Few Questions We're Seeking to Answer:

- ↳ Does the Church have any power? And if so, what kind of power? And how much power does she have?



Matthew 16:13-19

✘ **JESUS made a remarkable statement after the Holy Spirit inspired PETER to make a remarkable statement!**

↳ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

↳ ¹⁸ "And I also say to you that you are Peter [petros – a rock, stone], and on this rock [petra – mass of rock, boulder], **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you **bind** on earth will be **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be **loosed** in heaven."



The Keys of the Kingdom

✘ **They Relate to Spiritual Power & Authority.**

↳ "...in the New Testament a **key** (whether literal or metaphorical) always implies authority to **open a door** and **give entrance** to a place or realm." ⁵ (Luke 11:52; Rev. 1:18; 3:7; 9:1; 20:1; Is. 22:22)

↳ Three Applications of The Keys of the Kingdom:

1. Preaching the Gospel and opening the door to everlasting life.
2. Church Discipline.
3. And Binding and Loosing. ⁶





✘ MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- ❑ Conduct My Life According To Biblical Principles ~ Not by my own fleshly ideas and desires, but by God's revealed truth and requirements.
- ❑ Exercise the Keys of the Kingdom ~ By sharing the gospel message with others and unlocking the doors of salvation to those who will believe.
- ❑ Practice Loosing and Binding in Jesus' Name ~ By obeying Jesus' commands to live at peace with my brothers and sisters in the church and being willing to exercise church discipline principles with humility, grace and Scriptural guidelines (Matthew 18:15-35).
- ❑ Begin Praying for and Honoring Those In Authority Over Me ~ My parents, pastor, boss or manager, government officials, the President of the United States, and others.
- ❑ Make a Faith Decision ~ Prayerfully place my **faith** in Jesus Christ, God's Son, by **recognizing Him** as my personal **Lord** and **Savior** and by asking and receiving the forgiveness of my sins.



ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Johnston, Jeremiah J., "Why are so many Christians biblically illiterate?", Fox News Published February 10, 2016 4:26pm EST | Updated February 11, 2016 9:51pm EST <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/why-are-so-many-christians-biblically-illiterate> (Accessed 4-18-24)
- ² Ponce Foundation, "Christians Don't Read Their Bible" <http://poncefoundation.com/christians-dont-read-their-bible/> (Accessed 4-18-24)
- ³ Yount, Steve, "Bible reading drops to unprecedented low in America", Denison Forum – Published August 15, 2023 - <https://www.denisonforum.org/biblical-living/bible-reading-unprecedented-low-america/> (Accessed 4-18-24)
- ⁴ Grudem, W. (2020). Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (Second Edition, p. 1097). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.
- ⁵ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1097).
- ⁶ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1097-1098).
- ⁷ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1099).
- ⁸ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1100).



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- ⁷ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1099).
- ⁸ Grudem, W. (2020). (Second Edition, p. 1100).