

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1503

December 10, 2023

Luke 11:52, *“Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”*

Keys are used to open something. You probably have a key ring with you this very moment or close by. On it you might have keys to your house, automobile, a post office box, office door, etc. Keys are vital. They let us into places that we would otherwise not have entrance.

People of yesterday could not imagine some of the keys we have today. Some of them are cards that we scan over a lock. It might even be your cell phone that unlocks something as you near it. Regardless of whatever form it takes, a key grants access.

The above verse refers to the key of knowledge. This key is the knowledge of the God’s word. This key of knowledge grants access to the words of the Bible whereby we can learn how to be saved. It shows us the type of life to live to ever be with the LORD in Heaven after this life.

Not only does the word of God contain this knowledge, it contains

the dire warnings of what happens if we do not obey the LORD. This knowledge also shows us how to live our lives here. By this knowledge we can make our lives much more comfortable and without turmoil.

The key of knowledge that is the word of God is invaluable, yet this key was being withheld from the people. It was being withheld by the scribes and Pharisees. They were to the common man the most righteous people and keepers of God’s word, yet they were doing the opposite. By their sins and following their traditions more than God’s word, they had taken away the key of knowledge. They had access to this key, but had actually taken it from others.

I wonder if sometimes we take away the key of knowledge from others. We might not do it as overtly as the scribes and Pharisees, but we can do it in other ways.

We might keep others about us from the key of knowledge by not studying ourselves. By our lack of knowledge, we are not able to help others come to the truth. Perhaps we are in a position to be influential to someone, but our own lack of Biblical knowledge is taking away the key of knowledge from them.

We can take away the key of knowledge from others by our lukewarmness in serving the LORD. Perhaps we only attend when it suits us or is convenient. We might not be giving the way we should. We never pray unless we hear the prayers at services. Such a half-hearted approach to living for the LORD not only does us no good, but any who look to us are influenced negatively. If young children see such a life, they will very possibly grow up being the same way, and the key of knowledge has been taken away from them.

continued on next page...

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Sunday 9 & 12 PM; 6 PM (Online) — Wednesday 6 (Online)

News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Lauren Candela, Rick Gibbs, and Jerry Reynolds.** Alice Vanderstoep is

going to the University of Louisville Hospital this week to find out what can be done about her kidney stones.

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On a side note, parents do so much to make sure their children have a good education, even to the point of paying extra to send them to a special school, etc. They save up for college and do all they can to make sure their children obtain worldly knowledge. But in all the efforts to obtain this knowledge of the world, the key of knowledge, the word of God, is being withheld from their children.

There is another key that is missed out on when the key of knowledge is withheld. Jesus said in Revelation 1:18, “*I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*”

Not only do keys permit entrance, they can also provide escape. I’m sure we’ve all seen old western movies where the keys to the jail were hanging on a wall just outside a cell. The prisoner works to get the keys to get free.

Jesus has the keys for us to escape the worst fate imaginable— that of being lost eternally. The keys are not hiding or hanging just out of reach. He has them and is willing to hand the keys to us. It’s not enough to have the keys. We have to use them. We need to obey the LORD and live for Him all of our days.

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Sunday, December 3, 2023

Classes	19	Luke 2:1-10
Preaching	24	Luke 10:38-42
Contribution	\$1310.00	
Afternoon	8	Hebrews 11:1-10; Singing

Visitors— Dec 3 (AM) Marliegh Philpott (Cave City, KY)

Bible Quiz

When Jesus was born He was laid where?

Last Week’s Answer— A crown (Zechariah 9:16)

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Let’s not withhold access to the two vital keys from others or from ourselves. We have access to the key of knowledge to open up the wondrous treasures of the Bible. Jesus is also offering us the keys whereby we can escape hell and death. Take the keys. Use them. They are offered to us to use.

—Marty Edwards❖

Revelation 3:7, “*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.*”

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)