

Mat 16:13-20 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, **"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"** (14) And they said, **"Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."** (15) He ***said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"** (16) Simon Peter answered, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** (17) And Jesus said to him, **"Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (18) "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (19) "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."** (20) Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

People have many opinions concerning Jesus Christ, but those various opinions don't matter much.

In the above paragraph, the opinion which mattered was God's opinion; it was the revelation of God which made Peter's confession significant.

Again, Peter's answer was correct, but the critical thing about his answer was that it was not the teachings of men or just some grand idea which seemed to fit the moment. The essential thing was that it was the revelation of God which contains both truth and the power of God.

Jesus then went right on to say more about revelation and the power of revelation. It was on the 'rock' of revelation that He would build his church. The church is not built on Peter nor even his confession; it is built on the ongoing power of God's ongoing revelation.

While this may be a newish thought to some, the only way for the rest of the paragraph to make sense is to understand that Jesus is talking about the power of ongoing revelations in both binding and in loosing. Consider the following words.... **"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."** Said in a different way, we might read, **"I will reveal to you "keys" - "truths" - "revelations", so that according to those revelations you can use those "keys" to bind here on earth, for it "shall have [already] been bound in heaven."** And likewise whatever I reveal to you concerning loosing here on earth you can loose for it **"shall have [already] been loosed in heaven."**

God is interested in a working relationship with His sons so that they will speak His “now word” into the various issues which we face in our current world. In the beginning God planned for mankind to have dominion over the whole earth, but it was NOT HIS PLAN that mankind rule INDEPENDENTLY of God. He purposed for mankind to rule as agents of the King of Glory, but man rejected God's plan resulting in the fall and the ongoing chaos that followed. Christ died to reinstate that original plan with the sons of God reigning in Christ and thus releasing the rule and purpose and power of God into this fallen world.

Jesus introduced that plan and process throughout His life as He said and did only what He heard and saw His Father saying and doing. He said that He did nothing of His own initiative; that is His plan for us as well for *apart from Him we can do nothing*.

As “*new creatures*” in Christ, we are supernaturally equipped to hear and know and do the will of God. *1Co 2:12-14 Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

Of course, to follow Jesus in this supernatural way requires something of the one who chooses to follow. The way to follow is given in each of the first three gospels when Jesus said, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."* Luk 9:23-24

There is a cost involved in following Him *and in choosing NOT to follow Him*.

There is a glorious destiny for those who pay the price and follow.

That destiny is God's individual and good plan for your life.

Choose life.....Deu 30:19-20 *"... I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice,*

and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days.....”

Love and blessings,

George