

Preparatory

Introduction

- I. Only believers receive the manifold blessings of salvation found in Jesus Christ.
- II. How does Christ open up these blessings to His people and keep them from those who are not?

The Key Power of the Preaching

I. **The Open and Closed Kingdom**

- A. The citizens of the kingdom of heaven experience the blessings and riches of living under the sovereign rule of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:18, 36).

- B. How do God's people experience the blessings of this kingdom? How is this kingdom protected from the kingdom of darkness in this world? Through the keys of the kingdom.

II. **The Powerful Preaching**

- A. We have to understand what the preaching of the gospel is (Col. 1:28, 29).

- B. What does this preaching do? Jesus Christ opens and closes the kingdom through the preaching.

III. **The Divine Declaration**

- A. A. 84 says that unbelievers "stand exposed to the wrath of God and eternal condemnation, so long as they are unconverted; according to which testimony of the gospel God will judge them both in this and in the life to come."

- B. But through the preaching, Christ says to believers, your sins are really forgiven for the sake of Christ's merits. You are my sheep.