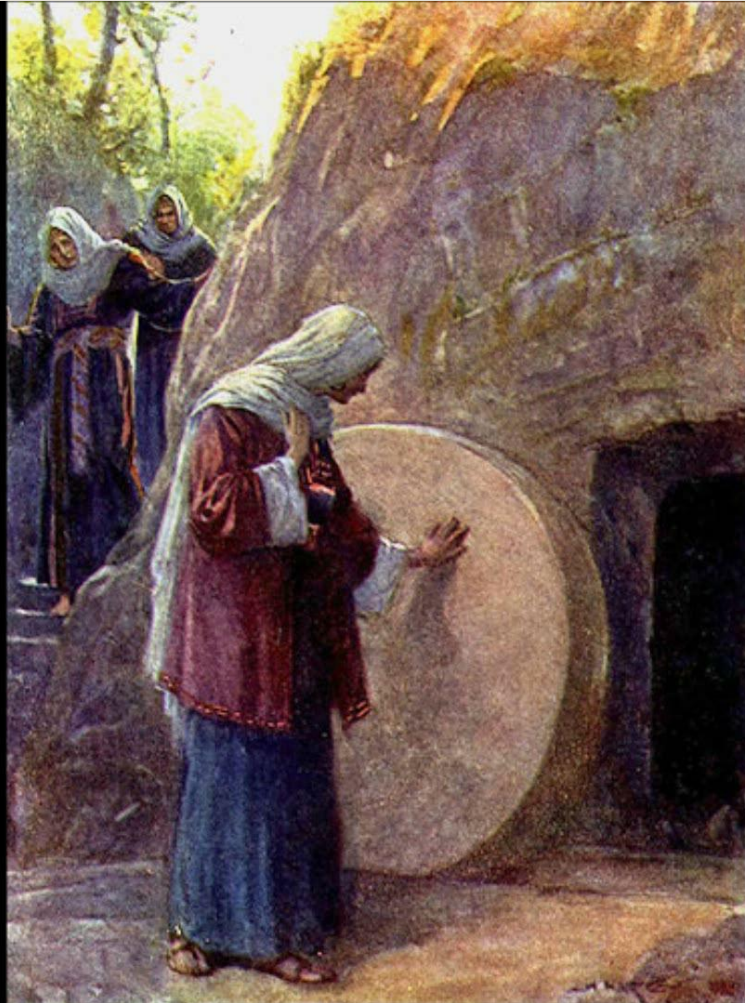


The Office of the Keys



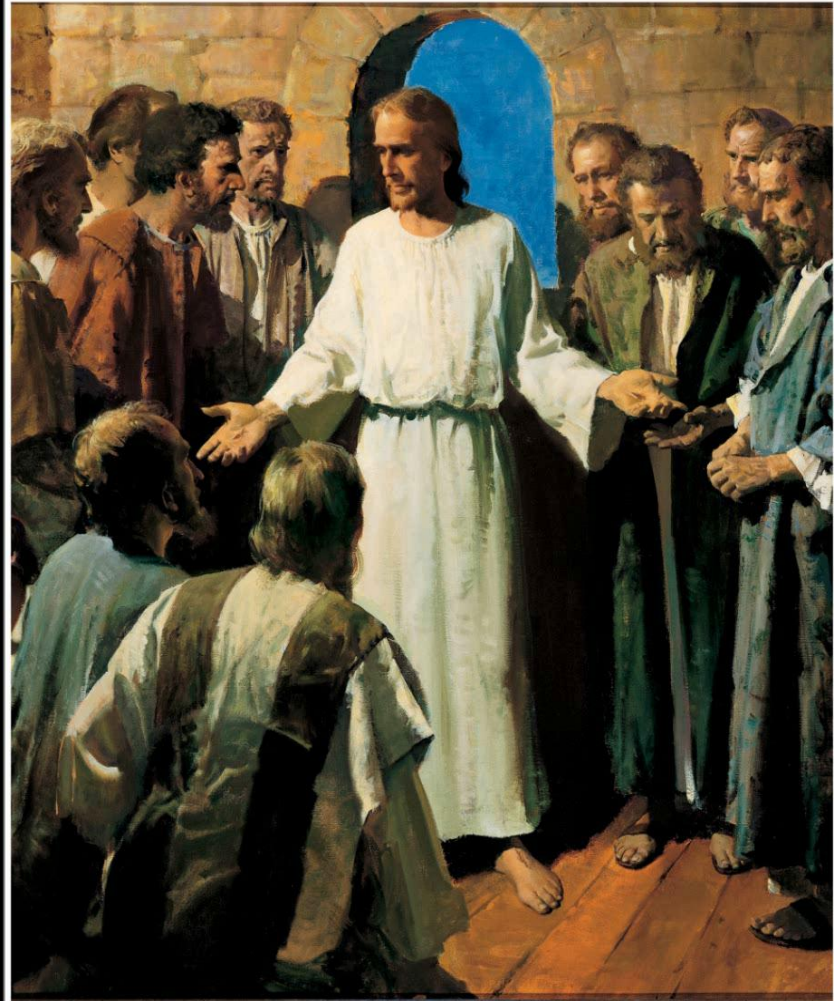
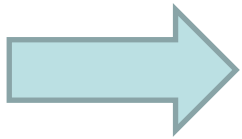


Matthew 28





John 20





Office of the Keys

- What is the Office of the Keys?
 - The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
- Where is this written?
 - This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter 20:



John 20:22-23

- **John 20:22-23**
- ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “**Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**”



What do we Believe?

- What do you believe according to these words?
 - I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.



Other Scriptural References

- **Matthew 18:18**
- ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- These words were spoken to the apostles. Jesus had before addressed the same words to Peter, [Matthew 16:19](#). He employs them here to signify that they all had the same power; that in ordering the **affairs of the church** he did not intend to give Peter any supremacy or any exclusive right to regulate it. The meaning of this verse is, whatever you shall do in **the discipline of the church** shall be approved by God or bound in heaven.

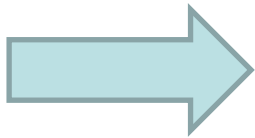


WVE: Preview

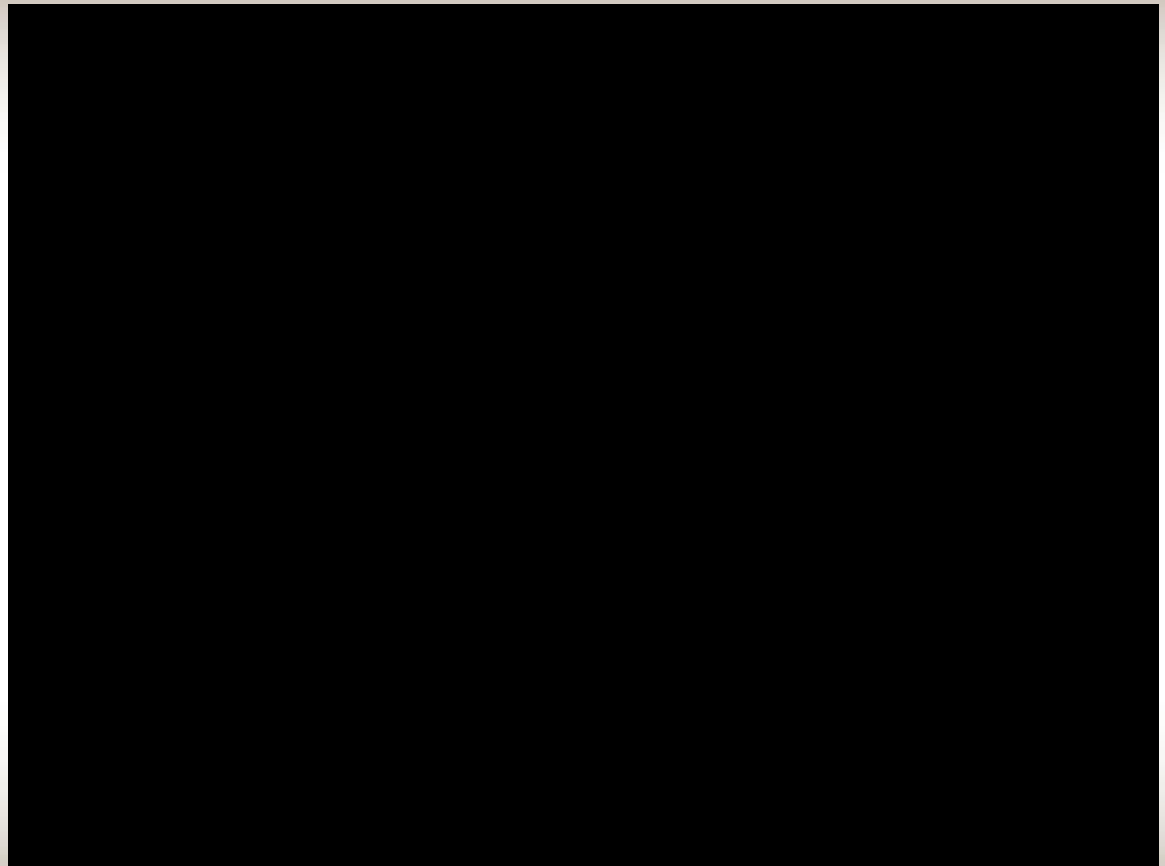
- Isn't John 20 enough?
- Can anyone forgive sins?
- Is the “great commission” a command for all church members?
- There is a difference between the man (Andrajack) and the office (Called and Ordained Pastor).
- What are the means by which we receive the Holy Spirit?



WVE: Office of Holy Ministry



Watch “Office of the Holy Ministry” on Worldview Everlasting



www.youtube.com/v/pxikyCjBWtU



Why a “Key”?

- This authority works like a key to open heaven by forgiving sins, or to close heaven by not forgiving them.
- **Matthew 16:19**
- **¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”**

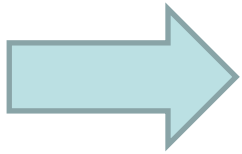


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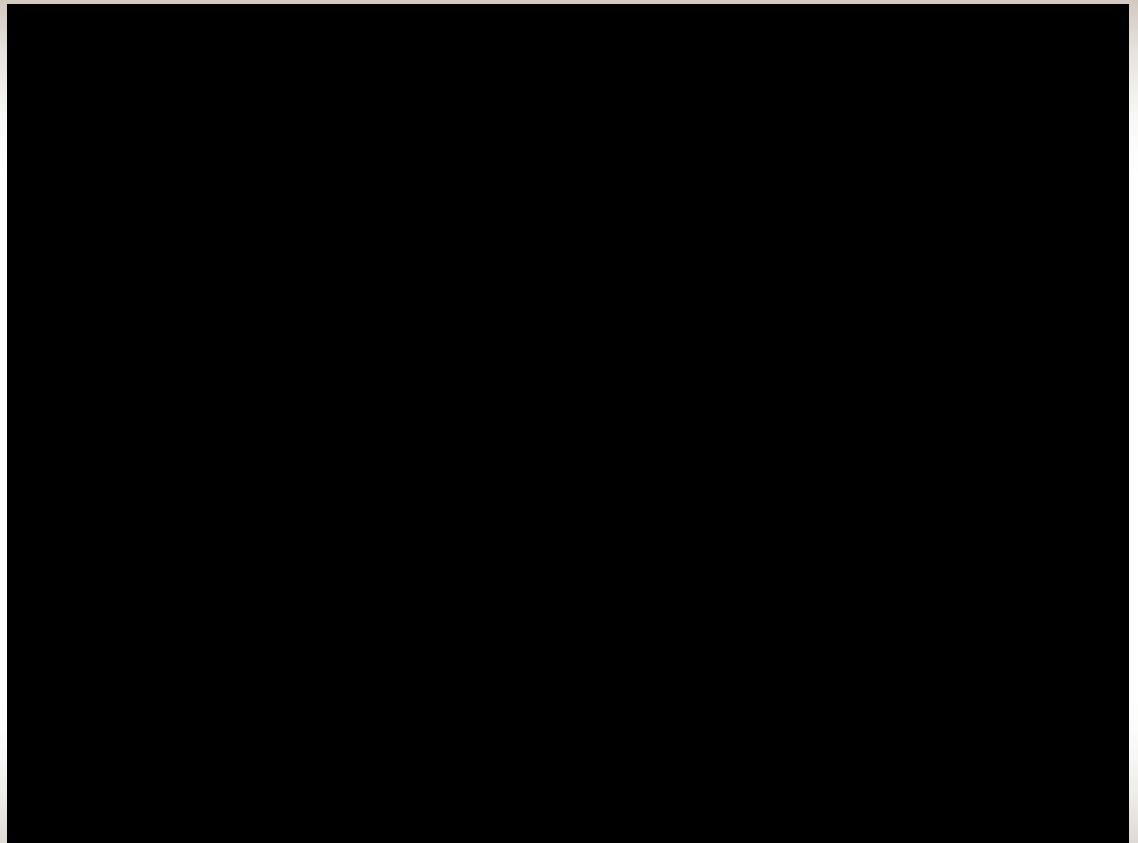
- Jesus points out that He chooses who to send, and in receiving that person, you receive Christ (in in doing so, you receive the Father who sent Him).
- The apostles had great power, but not to defend themselves – only to use for the purpose of mercy.
- Apostles (ministers) are not the ones receiving a blessing. Remember that the least among you is the greatest.



WVE: More About the Office of the Ministry



Watch “Glomissional
Entreprification” on
Worldview Everlasting



www.youtube.com/v/ke6W77AUIG8



The Result of Repentance

- If you repent of your sins, you get a heap of God's blessings poured out upon you.
- If you repent of your sins, you get the gift of...
 - The desire and the ability to produce good works.
 - Matthew 3:8 says “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance”
 - Produce... not Receive...
- Remember – good works flow from faith – not the other way around.



Excommunication

- Openly unrepentant sinners are removed from a Christian congregation through excommunication.
- **Matthew 18:15-17**
 - ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.



The Point Often Missed

- Excommunication is NOT meant as punishment (or banishment).
 - The intent is to lead them to repentance and faith, and to prevent them from leading others into sin.
 - If the person later repents, they will be accepted back into full fellowship.