



22 *And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.* (Isaiah 22:22)

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.* (Luke 11:52)

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* (Rev 3:7)

A Key is one of the most important of possessions. It unlocks resources to us that would otherwise be unavailable. We may own an impenetrable safe-box in which we keep our gold, and it will be safe from robbers and thieves; but if we lose the key to it, it will also keep our gold safe from us as well.

There are a variety of types of keys known to us. There is a physical key that is used to open a door, start an automobile or wind a grandfather clock; and there are mental keys that open mysteries of science and medicine. There are 'key' terms that reveal the meaning of a written or spoken commentary. The world is full of different kinds of keys.

Let me share another fairy tale with you collected from rural Europe by the Brothers Grimm entitled, *The Golden Key*: *"In the winter time, when deep snow lay on the ground, a poor boy was forced to go out on a sledge to fetch wood. When he had gathered it together, and packed it, he wished, as he was so frozen with cold, not to go home at once, but to light a fire and warm himself a little. So he scraped away the snow, and as he was thus clearing the ground, he found a tiny, gold key. Hereupon he thought that where the key was, the lock must be also, and dug in the ground and found an iron chest. ""If the key does fit it!"" thought he; ""no doubt there are precious things in that little box."" He searched, but no keyhole was there. At last he discovered one, but so small that it was hardly visible. He tried it, and the key fitted it exactly. Then he turned it once round, and now we must wait until he has quite unlocked it and opened the lid, and then we shall learn what wonderful things were lying in that box."* (*The Golden Key*, Grimm's Complete Fairy Tales, International Collector's Library, Garden City, NY)

What do you suppose was in the iron box: and what led to its discovery? The boy was tired and cold. He desired to be warmed by a fire. But he had to clear the ground first. In doing so, he found a tiny gold key. If there is a gold key, there is a lock someplace that the key for which the key was made, right?

This boy and his desire to be warmed by the fire is much like the seeker for truth in the cold wilderness of the world. In order to find truth, we must clear the ground of our worldly values and misconceptions and seek for that truth. Those who seek will find just as the boy found the gold key. But he was not looking for a gold key – he was clearing the ground. Something must spur our hearts and consciences to seek real truth that surpasses every other concern. The boy, finding the gold key, no longer considered the warmth of the fire of great importance. The important thing for the boy was to find the lock for which the key was made.

There are innumerable accounts of great Christian believers who happened upon the Gospel of Christ by a seeming accident of life. But our God is not a God of ‘accidents.’ He places golden keys in the way of those whom He would call and choose to be a part of His glorious Kingdom. One such great man of God was Charles Spurgeon who, as a young man of about twenty, was traveling through a rural area of England when a vicious thunderstorm arose. Seeking cover wherever he could, he turned into the nearest shelter which turned out to be an old church. The congregants were aged and few. The officiant was an unlearned deacon whose sermon did not immediately impress Spurgeon; but suddenly, the old deacon stopped mid-sentence, pointed a boney finger at Spurgeon, and said, “Young man, the Lord is calling you!” No words of greater import ever sounded in the ears, and soul, of Charles Spurgeon. From that night forth, he dedicated himself to the service of God. The GOLDEN KEY for Spurgeon was the call of God uttered through the lips of an ordinary old servant. Spurgeon had no idea what treasure might lie in the possibilities of that GOLDEN KEY, but he immediately, like the boy of Grimm’s Tale, began searching for the treasures which might be opened by it.

There are a great many Sunday worshippers who are seeking comfort just as was the boy of our tale. But, they are not so alert as to see the gold key strewn before them. Some, however, find the gold key, and sell it for its small value rather than seeking the treasure that the key will unlock for them.

By now, you have probably surmised that the Golden Key is the Word of God. You may have it in your purview every day, and yet not own it. You may have memorized entire passages and yet not have a clue to its deep and comforting meaning to you. You may have sat under great, and often sorry,, sermons year after year, and Sunday after Sunday, and have had the GOLDEN KEY revealed to you and, yet, not have your soul’s curiosity aroused to the point of diligently searching for the treasure that the key will unlock to you – and at no cost at all to you, as well. In actuality, there are several GOLDEN KEYS in Scripture that possess the potential to open our eyes to great treasures and wonders. Let us examine just a few:

- 1 *1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* (Gen 1:1) The complete Foundation of Faith rests upon God as our Maker and Sovereign. If we believe the world evolved by ridiculous accident, then God is excluded from your conscience.
- 2 *27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.* (Gen 1:27-28) This is a very misapplied passage. I believe intentionally so by the politically correct crowd of ministers. God created man in His own image – male and female, not male and male, or female and female. The first commandment God gave mankind was to “*be fruitful and multiply.*” This command cannot be obeyed by any same-sex union (there is not such thing as marriage between same sex couples). Additionally, we are to care for the earth and the creatures who are our neighbors upon the earth. We are not to act toward them with cruelty and neglect, but to care for those creatures that God has placed under our care.

- 3 <sup>21</sup> *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; <sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. <sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* (Gen 2:21-24) This is the first institution which God instituted among men – MARRIAGE – and it is an extremely important one in the eyes of God. Man and woman were made for each other, and to enjoy the fruits of God's green earth together in the Holy Estate of wedlock – one man for one woman. No other model exists in the eyes of God. It is of extreme importance because it serves as God's model for the Church (God's 2<sup>nd</sup> Institution) which He instituted under His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. To desecrate the Institution of Marriage is to defy the Creator's Model in all of His works.
- 4 <sup>10</sup> *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.* (Psalm 111:10) The fear of the Lord is certainly the BEGINNING of wisdom; but it is not the END of wisdom. It is the KEY by which we are led to a loving and caring Father. The fear falls away as we are drawn into a family relationship with God. But the fear is the key that compels us to learn of Him in all of the Scriptures.
- 5 <sup>8</sup> *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.* (Psalm 118:8) This is a very important key and is the very CENTER verse of the Bible, unless you are reading one of the penny novels that passes as a modern translation of Scripture. It is simple and only leads us to the threshold of wisdom. Reading the philosophical and psychological works of man will not profit the soul – only God's Word can do that as we are told in another GOLDEN KEY: <sup>11</sup> *The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. <sup>12</sup> And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. <sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* (Eccl 12:11-13)
- 6 <sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16) Here is yet another GOLDEN KEY which should evoke a fervent knowledge to search out the treasures of the great CHEST to which the KEY gives access – all of the Word of God! Are you not curious to know what was in the iron chest that the boy opened with the Gold Key? Are you not diligent to know the full Word of God to you given at great cost?

There are thousands more Golden Keys in Scripture that lead us to the TREASURE CHEST of God's Word if we have the want to find it. The slothful and uncaring will never search out the CHEST, but those who value a GOLDEN KEY will certainly do so.