

keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

This passage is very important. It gives the Scriptural basis for Reformation of the church, because it gives the Scriptural basis on which the church stands.

The phrase, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" has been interpreted in three different ways. One is that it was the man Peter upon whom it was to be built. There is indeed a large element of truth in this interpretation. Christ's church is built upon men. Jesus could simply have said, "Let the church come into existence, as a perfect organism." He could have created it out of nothing, that had been His will. Instead He chose that His church should be composed of men and should be built upon men, and this very wonderful man Peter was the one whom God first used in the foundation of His church. Peter preached the great sermon at Pentecost, when three thousand people were added to the church. He was the first to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, when he went to the house of Cornelius. He was a very important instrument in the founding and establishing of the church.