

Peter as representing the whole church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against his church and I will give to thee, that is to Peter and to the other members of the church, the key 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. What a power and what a responsibility. Those who are bound in the power of Satan, those whom the gates of hell, are holding, if we leave them bound and if we don't bring them the message of salvation they are bound through all eternity. But if we bring them the message of salvation he gives us the power to loose them from the power of Satan, to deliver them from the gates of hell and Whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. What a responsibility and what a power God has given to his church. Now of course God can do what he chooses. God could <sup>simply</sup> say, I want everyone ~~on~~ on earth to be saved. tomorrow. He could do that if he chose. God could make us all ~~be~~ robots. He could make us all simply mechanical figures that He moves as He chooses, but He doesn't what that. He wants human beings who serve him and who love Him and have power of choice. So He has chosen to commit to His church, to commit to His people the power and the responsibility of delivering others, of ~~the~~ bringing them into the church, of freeing them from the gates of hell and losing them and he has given us the terrible responsibility that if we do not fulfill the task He gives us there will be those that will be bound through all eternity who could be loosed if his church did what he desires it to do. Tremendous power; the awesome responsibility of the church.

No. 8 is a temporary command, vs. 20. I have preached on this passage and simply skipped vs. 20. But I don't think we should skip anything in the passage. I think we should note the interrelationship of all of it. So/while vs. 20 is a little aside from the main theme that we are looking at, I believe we should note its meaning. "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man, that he was Jesus, the Christ." He charged them to tell no one that He was Jesus Christ. He doesn't charge us to ~~go~~ tell no one that He is Jesus Christ. We are commanded to go out and to preach the gospel to every living creature. But at this time Jesus Christ was training his little group of disciples. He was training them and teaching them and building them