

Hi! My name is Gary Westgerdes, The Founder of **The Keys of Heaven Ministries**. I was born and raised in a Catholic family in a mostly Catholic community, in Ohio. At age seven a religion class that I was in was being taught about heaven and hell; God was convicting me of my sin and I was worried about going to hell. A week or so later, the class teacher, I don't know why, read John 3:16 and upon hearing God's word I was born again as I trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins, "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." After wondering from God my Father this prodigal son returned home at age 23 for forgiveness. I celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> year as a child of God the summer of 2013.

My desire for the ministry is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to provide information for discipleship through my own studies plus those of other helpful ministries. I used my V.A. benefits to attend college (Jan. 86 – May 92) and received my Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with Minors in Pastoral Ministries and Christian Education (and Christian Ministries Management) from Summit Christian College IN, currently known as Taylor University.

## What Are The Keys of Heaven?

### Paul: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 8

"Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have **received**, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are **saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was **buried**, and that He **rose** again the third day according to the scriptures: and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that ... above five hundred ... James ... all the apostles. And last of all ... me."

### 1 Corinthians 1:17-19, 21, 23, 24, 30, 31

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are **saved** it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise ... the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that **believe** ... we preach Christ **crucified** ... a stumbling block ... foolishness; But unto them which are called ... Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and **redemption**: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

### Peter: Acts 2:22-24, 31, 32

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth ... being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken and by wicked hands have **crucified** and **slain**: Whom God hath **raised** up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it ... He seeing this before spake of the **resurrection** of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption this Jesus hath God **raised** up, whereof we all are witness."

### Acts 10:34-36, 39-49

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ ... whom they **slaw** and **hanged on a tree**: Him God **raised** up the third day, and shewed Him openly ... even to us, who did eat and drink with Him after He **rose** from the dead. And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name **whosoever believeth** in Him shall **receive remission of sins**. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision (Jews) which **believed** were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then Answered Peter, can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

## Paul: 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, 56, 57

“For since by man came death, by man came also the **resurrection** of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be **made alive** ... The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God which giveth us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

## Romans 4:25; 5:1, 17

Jesus: “Who was **delivered** for our offences, and was **raised** again for our justification. Therefore, being **justified by faith**, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

## Ephesians 2:8, 9

“For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**: not of works lest any man should boast.”

## Matthew 16:15-17, 19, 21, 24, 25

Jesus asked His disciples: “But whom say ye that I am? ... Peter ... ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.’ Jesus ... ‘Blessed art thou ... for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven ... And I will give unto thee **the 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.’ {**John 20:23** Jesus said – “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”} 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 said Jesus unto His disciples, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it’ and **whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.”**”

## John 3:16

“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**.”

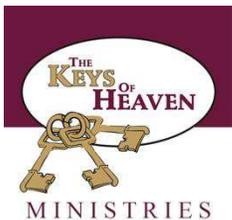
## Hebrews 9:24-26

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands ... but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that He should offer Himself often ... For then must He often have **suffered** since the foundation of the world” but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the **sacrifice** of Himself.”

## Revelations 1:4, 5, 7

“Peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come ... unto Him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in His own blood** ... Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him ... Even so, Amen.”

**Bible/Scriptures: King James Version**



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“**Beware** lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and **vain deceit**, after the **tradition of men**, after **the rudiments of the world**, and **not after Christ**” (Colossians 2:8).

A Bible Believing Christian Ministry. We stand on the Five “Alone” Statements 1. Faith apart from works. 2. Scripture apart from Tradition. 3. Through Christ Keys apart from Sacraments. 4. By God’s Unmerited Grace Received Through Faith apart from Works. 5. All the Glory to God. **Apostle Paul’s statement of Faith:** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (**Galatians 2:20**). **First sinner’s prayer:** “Lord remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom” (**Luke 23: 42**). **Jesus’ answer:** “To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise” (**Luke 23:43**). **“Jesus saith** ... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me’” (**John 14:6**). **Jesus:** “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it” (**Matthew 10:39**). **Jesus:** “This is the first and great commandment ... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (**Matthew 22: 38, 37**).

**Give your heart, mind, soul and strength to Jesus to be used for God’s glory.**