

The Gates of Hell

Scripture: Matthew 16:18
Jude 1:24-25

Introduction

Jesus' expectation for His church was that it would be a formidable force that stayed on the offensive against Satan, and not on the defense. This is shown by His analogy in our text.

Gates are used to defend. Christ's church is on the offensive.

I. Gates that defend the enemy's sanctuary

Isaiah 14:13-15 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

- A. The enemy's ambition
 - 1. To exalt himself
 - 2. To be as God
- B. The enemy's method
 - 1. To manipulate individuals
 - 2. To build a sanctuary for himself
 - a. The enemy's sanctuary in our heart
 - b. The enemy's sanctuary in our goals, ambitions, and dreams
 - c. The enemy's sanctuary in our home
- C. The Church is equipped to destroy Satan's sanctuary

2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

II. Gates that obstruct the Christian's success and victory

Daniel 10:13a But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days....

- A. Satan's intent to obstruct God's plan in our lives
 - 1. By delaying divine communications with us
 - 2. By closing doors God has opened to us
- B. The Christian's mighty weapons
 - 1. Prayer and fasting
 - 2. The Word of God
 - 3. The power of the Holy Spirit

III. Gates that can be penetrated to bring victory

Daniel 10:13b-14a...but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come....

Matthew 16:18b ...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- A. The Christian is equipped for victory
- B. The Christian is empowered to victory
- C. The Christian is commissioned to victory