

# Lord's Day 31

Questions 83, 84, & 85

**Q**uestion 83: What are the keys to the kingdom?

**A**nswer: *The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance. Both preaching and discipline open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.*



### Heart of the Matter:

When did you first hear the preaching of the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom? \_\_\_\_\_

How did it affect you? \_\_\_\_\_

What has been the lasting results? \_\_\_\_\_

How have you practiced 'Christian discipline' by applying the gospel to your life? \_\_\_\_\_



### Key scriptures:

Matthew  
16:19  
John  
20:22-23

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

How are you strong in your faith, because you heard the gospel?  
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How does it keep you from getting entangled in the 'affairs of this life?'  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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How has the gospel made you quiet and peaceful? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Lord's Day 31

Questions 83, 84, & 85

**Q**uestion 84: How does preaching the gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?

**A**nswer: According to the command of Christ: The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to all believers, each and every one, that, as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of what Christ has done, truly forgives all their sins.

The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the anger of God and eternal condemnation rest on them. God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.



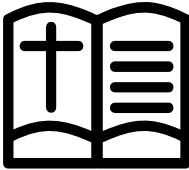
## Heart of the Matter:

"All people will be judged by their response to the gospel..."  
Site several occasions when your behavior was changed because you heard the gospel.

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## Key scriptures:

Matthew  
16:19  
John  
3:31-36  
20:21-23

**John 3:31-36** "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one whom comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Do you know a Christ rejecter? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would you explain verse 36 to them? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would you attempt to lead them to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lord's Day 31

Questions 83, 84, & 85

**Q**uestion 85: *How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by Christian discipline?*

**A**nswer: **According to the command of Christ:**  
*Those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives, and after repeated and loving counsel refuse to abandon their errors and wickedness, and after being reported to the church, that is, to its officers, fail to respond also to their admonition—such persons the officers exclude from the Christian fellowship by withholding the sacraments from them, and God himself excludes them from the kingdom of Christ. Such persons, when promising and demonstrating genuine reform, are received again as members of Christ and of his church.*



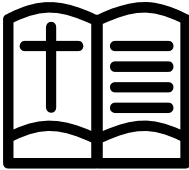
## Heart of the Matter:

The church is not a 'police' station. How are you disciplining yourself according to the teaching of the WORD?

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How are you seeing improvement in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Key scriptures:

Matthew  
18:15-20  
1 Corinthians  
5:3-5, 11-13  
2 Thessalonians  
3:14-15  
Luke  
15:20-24  
2 Corinthians  
2:6-11

**Matthew 18:15-20** *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

This is the order of correction in the church. What needs to be done according to the Catechism answers and the Scripture?

1st \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_