

**PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK**  
**Part One: The Pursuit of Christ**

Text: Matt. 16:13-28

**I. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CROSS (vs. 13-17, 20)**

**1. A Powerful \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 13-17)**

- Not just John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah.
- The \_\_\_\_\_, “the” (one and only) Son of the living God.
- Application: The One Who has right to \_\_\_\_\_ us to follow and is worth following.
- Question: Whom do \_\_\_\_\_ say that Jesus is?

**2. A \_\_\_\_\_ Prohibition (vs. 20)**

- He charged them not to tell because they still didn't \_\_\_\_\_ His work.
- Application: If you leave out the \_\_\_\_\_, you're not preaching Christ or doing God's work.

**II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CROSS (vs. 18-19)**

**1. To \_\_\_\_\_ a building called the church.**

- Time: “will build” = \_\_\_\_\_, after dying on the cross.
- Place: “on this \_\_\_\_\_”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ = petros (stone, rock fragment);
  - Rock = petra (\_\_\_\_\_ of rock, cliff).
- What was stonelike about Peter = his \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is “this Rock” upon which the church stands (Acts 4:10-12, 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20-22, 1 Pet. 2:4-5).
- He is also the Rock that every person must \_\_\_\_\_ one way or another (Matt. 21:42-44).
  - “Fall on it”:
    - If you \_\_\_\_\_ upon Christ because you are offended by Him, your life will be shattered in pieces.
    - If you fall on Him in the brokenness of \_\_\_\_\_, He will rebuild you!
  - “Fallen upon by it” = the final \_\_\_\_\_ upon those who don't repent and believe in Christ (Dan. 2:34-35).
- Application: Christ is the Stone of \_\_\_\_\_ and of \_\_\_\_\_. Which will He be for you? (Matt. 7:24-25)

**2. To open the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven and hell.**

- Keys of kingdom of heaven = the ministry of opening heaven's doors to people who believe in Christ.

- Opening gates = delivering souls from eternal \_\_\_\_\_ and defeating those who seek to put people in hell.
- Loosing = introducing people to true \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ
- Binding = 2 things:
  - Bringing a greater \_\_\_\_\_ and judgment on those who reject Christ in unbelief;
  - Restricting the operations of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ through prayer.
- Three primary ways binding and loosing are applied:
  - Context here = through \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel
  - 18:18-20: in the application of church \_\_\_\_\_ and in agreeing prayer

**III. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CROSS (vs. 21-23)**

**1. Christ's exact and \_\_\_\_\_ prediction**

- “From that time forth” = Here and many times thereafter:
  - 17:9, 22-23; 20:17-19; 26:10-12
- The exactness of the prophecy also showed that what happened to Christ was no \_\_\_\_\_ but exactly what the Father willed (Acts 2:23-24).

**2. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ objection**

- Peter's motives were both \_\_\_\_\_ and self-centered.
- Application: One of Satan's most effective deceptions = you can have Christ without a cross.
  - Things of men = \_\_\_\_\_ things.
  - Things of God = \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- Question: Who is \_\_\_\_\_ of your life? You can tell by what you “savor.”

**IV. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CROSS (vs. 24-28)**

- To “\_\_\_\_\_” your life.
  - Losing your life for Christ's sake = turning your back on your life in this world.
  - Finding your life = finding the eternal, abundant life of Christ.
- The other possibility = to lose the life you tried to save.
  - “Will save” = \_\_\_\_\_, desires to save.
  - Same as gaining the \_\_\_\_\_.

**CONCLUSION**

- We can be so glad that our Lord was the \_\_\_\_\_ to travel the road of the cross!
- Which road will you take? The popular or less traveled by? The world's way or Christ's?