

Christ is "he that hath the key of David;" and "the keys of hell (*hades*) and of death"—"He that openeth, and no man shutteth, and shutteth, and no man openeth."

By these phrases we understand, that the uncontrolled administration of the church is in his hands. He calls and sends forth his ministers; he is present with them in the performance of their work; and in all Christian assemblies. He directs them in their sphere of labor, and removes obstructions from their path. He defends his church when in danger. He admits into his church, and excludes from it. No one can be a real member of his church unless he receive him as such, and inscribe his name in the Book of Life: and no one can continue to be a member of this spiritual community if he blot out his name from that record. In the prophecies of Isaiah, Eliakim is introduced as a type of Christ in his official character. He was to be clothed with the robe, and to be strengthened with the girdle; the government was to be committed into his hands: the key of the house of David was to be laid upon his shoulder: he should open, and none should shut; and he should shut, and none should open, (c. xxii. 21, 22.) Eliakim, the type of Christ, is invested with authority in, and over, the house of David; Christ, the antitype, is invested with authority, and power in, and over, the church, the house of God.

Among other official acts of our Lord, performed in his church, is that of determining the period of the probationary existence of each individual. He declared that he had the keys of *hades* and of death;