

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR - (ROMANS 10:17; MATTHEW 7:24-27).

BELIEVE - (HEBREWS 11:6; MARK 16:15-16).

REPENT - (ACTS 2:38; 17:30; LUKE 13:3).

CONFESS - (MATTHEW 10:32,33; ACTS 8:36).

BE BAPTIZED - (ACTS 2:38; GALATIANS 3:27).

LIVE FAITHFULLY UNTO DEATH - (REV. 2:10).

Upon The Rock
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UPON THE ROCK is published quarterly for the purpose of setting forth sound biblical material concerning first-principles and evangelism. We strive to print articles that are informative for Christians and non-Christians. For past issues and extra copies of this issue visit our website www.westsidecoc.net

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Who At the Door is Standing?

Knocking at the Door
Asa B. Everett 1876

Mary B. C. Slade, 1876

- 1. "Who at the door is standing, patiently
drawing near, entrance with-in demanding?
Whose is the voice I hear?"***
- 2. All thro' the dark hours dreary, knocking
again is He; Jesus art thou not weary,
waiting so long for me?"***
- 3. Door of my heart I hasten! Thee will I open
wide; Tho' He rebuke and chasten,
He shall with me abide.***

Chorus:

***Sweetly the tones are falling "Open the door for
me If thou wilt heed my calling,
I will abide with thee"***

This song is taken from the song book "Praise the Lord" and can be found on page 767

Far East/ World Evangelism

Mark Reynolds

I recently began working with two outstanding works, Murmansk, Russia and Kakinada India respectively. I have seen some outstanding works in the brotherhood, but I can honestly say that I have never seen anything like I did on my recent trip to India. Not only were there several baptisms, but many Hindus have been converted to Christ at the risk of great persecution. Joshua Gootam, a Christian of forty years, leads this outstanding work and has literally converted thousands of souls. His greatest tool is the Bible Correspondence Course, written by Ira Y. Rice, and has been taken by over 3.2 million Indians. There are currently 35,000 souls enrolled in the course on an ongoing basis. Those who complete the course are promised a Bible for their efforts. As of this writing there is an \$1800 a month shortfall to fund all the necessities for this work. Joshua and his sons have been making this up themselves (two of Joshua's sons are working in the computer field here in the States, the other is working by his side in Kakinada). We need your help. I would love to talk to personally about the needs for this work, or would love to make a presentation to the congregation where you attend. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or to set up an appointment. Towne Acres Church of Christ is overseeing my work.

Thank you,

Mark Reynolds

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Door of Opportunity to do Good or Bad! **Michael Gors**

A door is used for entry into a home, business, rooms, etc. Doors serve as a way of entry or sometime as security to keep us safely inside and unwelcome intruders outside. Often times use “the door” figuratively to speak of opportunity. With each passing day and in effect with each passing moment we have a door of opportunity to good or evil. The opportunity to speak words of encouragement or words of hurt can happen in a moment and the blink of an eye. Once those words are spoken they cannot enter once again into our minds or be “taken back”. There are times in life we have monumental decisions to make and opportunities to have that may alter our lives. For example we could choose to get married, have children etc. We have a frequent opportunity to show faithful obedience to the gospel of Christ and godly living. Choose to worship and serve Him regularly and faithfully. OR we can choose to reject the gospel and continue to live in sin and be separated from God. The choice is ours to make!

In this issue of Upon the Rock the writers have been asked to consider the various ways “doors” have been opened to us. First there is the fact that sin lies at the door just waiting for us to open and partake of it. Second, A door of opportunity to for us to evangelize is opened because sooner or later everyone opens the door to sin and allows it into their lives and hearts to abide and so we must reach out to them.

Second, A door of opportunity to for us to evangelize is opened because sooner or later everyone opens the door to sin and allows it into their lives and hearts to abide and so we must reach out to them. Third, As we bring those who have sinned into the body of the saved we must help them connect through fellowship and opportunities to serve the Lord. They must find ways to serve the Lord even if it seems to them as small and insignificant. We must be “doorkeepers” at God’s house rather than dwell with sinners. Fourth, We see that Jesus is the only door through which we must walk in order to be found saved and faithful in Christ. The world wants to say there are many ways and avenues to God but the Bible teaches there is in fact only one way. And Finally We will see that Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks. He has a strong desire to be in your life and a part of your daily decisions and activities. He will not force His way in, we must voluntarily open the door and allow Him in. The question is will we open the door of our hearts and allow Jesus to live and reign in there. In any case we see the doors of opportunity abound to do both good and evil. The choice is ours. It is our hope that your will choose Christ!

Ring Out the Message

James Rowe 1911 Samuel W. Beazley, 1911

Song Book: “Praise the Lord” page 833

**There’s a message true and glad for the sinful and
the sad, Ring it out, Ring it out
It will give them courage new it will help them to be
true, Ring it out, Ring it out**

**Tell the world of saving grace, make it know in
every place, Ring it out, Ring it out
Help the needy ones to know him from whom all
blessings flow, Ring it out Ring it out**

**Sin and doubt to sweep away, till shall dawn a
better day Ring it out, Ring it out.
Till the sinful world be won for Jehovah’s mighty
son Ring it out, Ring it out**

**Ring out the word over land and sea
Still far from Jesus many live in sin and doubt
Ring out the news that makes men free
Ring the message out**

Salt has the ability to preserve. Perhaps a gracious word spoken could preserve a heart whose flame is about to go out. Perhaps it could build their faith up and preserve them for the appearing of Christ at Judgment. ***“That you may know how you ought to answer each one”*** We must be gracious and kind but also we must never compromise the truth of God’s word. “Answering as we ought” means to make a defense for what we know to be true from the scriptures with wisdom and always in the spirit of love. The church must be bold in speaking the gracious and kind words toward those outside of Christ without compromising truth and always in the spirit of love.

Conclusion

Jesus told to lift up our eyes and see the harvest. The very difficult question that makes us all very uncomfortable is “Will we have the zeal, courage and faith it takes to go into the fields and harvest the myriad of lost souls around us?” Let’s be like the Colossians and pray that God may open a door for the word to be spoken and then let’s be like the Philadelphians who walked through the door by faith and proclaim Jesus without shame as we ought. That the one who we say is the Lord of our lives truly is just that and can say “I know your works” and smile down on us as we walk by faith!
Meditate on the song “Ring out the Message”

Sin Lies at the Door

Mark McDonald

As these words are being written a tornado warning has been issued in our area. This means that thunderstorms with twisting winds/funnel clouds may be imminent. This warning was issued to warn; that is, to allow people time to take cover from an approaching storm. Warnings are truly helpful and needed. The Bible is the book from God through which He warns all men.

God warned Cain. God said if Cain did well, he would be accepted, but if Cain did not well, sin “...crouched at the door” (Gen. 4:7; ASV). The same God Who warned Cain desires to be Father to all men (cf. 2 Cor. 6:17-18). He loves all men (John 3:16). He warns all men through the message of His word because he loves and deeply cares for mankind and his condition (cf. Acts 17:30; Matt. 28:18-20; II Thess. 1:6-10). Good people, if God cared not for us, why would He issue these much needed warnings? Again, warnings are issued to provide people with opportunity to “do well.” We need warnings to guide us especially in difficult situations; life threatening, “sin destroying” storms.

Speaking of something life threatening, what do you consider more life threatening than sin? As depicted by Almighty God, sin crouches at one’s door. The very thought begs a question, if a F5 tornado was crouching at your front door, would you open the door and say, “Well, come on in?” Certainly not! We all know that would not be wise; however, many will open the door of their heart and allow sin to “come on in.” Do you know what is worse than a F5 tornado? Sin! It’s true! When a F5 has finished it’s path of destruction, some remain alive.

However, the Bible says when sin is finished it “brings forth death” (James 1:15) to all (cf. Rom. 3:23; 6:23). How many survivors after sin’s devastation you ask? None! The scriptures say when the soul sins, it dies (Ezek. 18:20); every time! Friend, this is the reason God warned Cain about sin. God didn’t want Cain in sin. Sin causes death; i.e., separation from God (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 55:1-2). God wants no one separated from Him nor perishing in sin. The Scriptures say God is not “...willing that any should perish...” (2 Pet. 3:9). This is why our loving and caring God warns us about sin. Sin causes death and perishing. You may be wondering how close sin is to you? Sin is as close to us as it was to Cain. Sin crouches at the door of our hearts. Peter wrote, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8). The devil never sleeps and he continuously moves. He had the guts to tempt Jesus Christ to sin and he will tempt us to sin as well.

Satan’s agenda was/is to destroy everything God deemed “very good” in Genesis 1:31. This includes you and your family. If Satan spies a weakness in your heart, he will bombard that weakness relentlessly. Friend, what had Abel done to Cain? Nothing! Right? Abel did absolutely nothing to offend his older brother. The Bible says Abel was righteous (Heb. 11:4). Yet, at the hands of his own brother, righteous Abel was murdered. The first funeral wasn’t the death of an elderly person. The first funeral was caused by a man who opened the door of his heart and allowed sin “to come on in.” We must not allow this. Did you know Judas did the same thing? The Bible explicitly says, “...Satan entered into him” (John 13:26-27). We understand John to mean that

In these verses we find Paul in “chains” or in prison for preaching the gospel. Yet he is asking for prayers from the brethren to petition God to open up doors for him to make Christ “manifest” (plain or clear). He felt indebted to do this notice he said in verse four “as I ought to speak”. That friends and brethren is true boldness, true zeal and true faith for Christ!

Consider now the advice of Colossians 4:5,6. **“Redeeming the time”** buying up the opportunities today to speak and not waiting for a better or more convenient time. Let’s use wisely the time God has granted us to speak to those **“who are outside”** It brings great joy to be in a congregation that is warm and loving **BUT** we need to spend time with those outside of congregation who could benefit from the same joy found in the congregation (see Matthew 5:46-48). Be wise in using time toward those who are lost outside of Christ. When we do it is imperative to remember the advice of Colossians 4:6. **“Let your speech always be with grace...”** Let the word of God prick their hearts, be sure not to let your attitude or abrasive words with wrong motives in your heart destroy their spirit and their desire to know God! **Seasoned with salt**, salt has a way of making the plain and boring things palatable. It has the ability to melt water that is frozen solid and so perhaps the heart that has grown cold and callous a gracious word seasoned with salt can be penetrated and touched.

or cause him to be ashamed of his love for Christ and the power of his gospel. To the Philippians he once boldly wrote *"in keeping with my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body whether by life or by death"* Philippians 1:20. To Paul it did not matter if he was mistreated or whether he lived or died, all he wanted was for Jesus to be boldly proclaimed and the lost to be saved! He asked for prayers to be made that a door of opportunity to preach Christ would be opened, Colossians 4:3,4, "...praying also for us, **that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, That I may make it manifest as I ought to speak**".

(continued p.27)

Deserving of your Consideration



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Judas was completely gone from our Lord at this point. He was one of the Lord's own twelve original apostles. Satan's mission is to get any and all to sin. As the LORD told Cain, if we do not well, sin lies at our door.

Satan wants you and your family's heart filled with strife, contention, and continuous bickering. Why? Satan knows these cause destruction just like a tornado. Oh, did you hear that warning? Listen to it: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31-32). Listen to that language. Read it aloud if you must; it is not optional! We must heed and follow this instruction. "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not" (Prov. 8:33). The Lord allows us to be angry with another as long as we do not sin; we sin when we allow the sun to set on us with anger pent up in our hearts (Eph. 4:26). Out of all the people the Bible addresses, who do you think transgresses this command the most? We would answer husbands and wives. When momma and daddy have opened the door of their heart to sin, sin comes in and rips, tears, and devastates them. Because this warning went unheeded, the entire family will feel the effects. Please be advised, we will "do well" when we obey Ephesians 4:31-32. Sin lies at our door when we do not!

A Door of Evangelism has been Opened- Mark Reynolds

When Jesus sent the twelve apostles out for the limited commission He cracked the door open for evangelism. “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 10:5-7). When Jesus gave the great commission to the remaining eleven directly, and to every Christian who would obey their teaching, He busted the hinges off the door for evangelism! “Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The fact that this commission was extended to all Christians, not just the eleven remaining apostles, cannot be denied. The commission itself bears this out. If the commission was given to the apostles, and they in turn taught it to all other nations, and to “teach them to observe all things I have commanded you” then those who were taught by them would be commanded to observe the great commission as well. This fact can also be seen, however, by the actions of the early Christians. Follow this powerful example. “Now Saul was consenting to his [Stephen’s] death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles**” (Acts 8:1).

level and then on a personal level.

A Door Opened by God for the Church

“I know your works. See I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...”, Revelation 3:8. **“I know your works”**. Our God is alive and well and watching over the church. Expressed through the pen of John is the fact that God knows this little church of Philadelphia. He is fully aware of the works of faith performed by this congregation. They as a congregation **“have kept [God’s] word and have not denied [Christ’s] name.”** Clearly the idea was that God had opened a door for them and they were not ashamed of the gospel nor of knowing Jesus and living for him no matter the cost. It was God who opened the door for the congregation at Philadelphia and by implication they had the faith and boldness to walk through that door and take advantage of those opportunities. . The question for today is, will we do as they did? Does “my” congregation have bold leaders/elders who are visionaries? Does your congregation, no matter the size, lift up Christ in your community? Or Is your congregation mired in apathy?

A Door of Utterance

Paul was a great soldier of the cross. He endured a great deal of trial and afflictions because of his faith and boldness in preaching Christ and him crucified (see 2 Corinthians 11:22-28). The things he went through did not intimidate him

A Door for the Word

Michael Gors

Opportunities abound! This is what was indicated by Jesus in John chapter 4, when he said “Do not say, ‘there are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold I say unto you lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white unto harvest”, John 4:35. What is a lesson one might gain? How about, stop waiting and sitting idle and go into the fields to harvest the souls ready for the gospel! The time is now, 1 Corinthians 6:2. Jesus has come, put on flesh walked among us, taught in word and deed, died on a cross, buried in a tomb, rose the third day, and has ascended on high to take his rightful place on the throne to reign next to the Father. We as his people must be bold and ‘lift up our eyes’ and look around us for opportunities to give the world Christ. There are people all around us who are hurting and broken. Maybe someone has lost a loved, a child, spouse, parent or close friend and is hurting. Death causes people to look for comfort from Christ. Maybe someone around us has recently gone through a divorce or other trying time and now needs to find answers, comfort, and direction that only God and His word can give them. The list could unfortunately go on and on. This article, while it sounds like another article about evangelism, is really more about having the courage, zeal, boldness and faith it takes to reach out and actually do what God has asked us to do. Let us consider on a congregational level

Because of the persecution led by Saul of Tarsus, the Christians in Jerusalem scattered while the apostles remained in Jerusalem. What did those scattered Christians do? “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them”, (Acts 8:4-5). Those who were scattered because of persecution went right back to doing the very thing that brought the persecution. They preached the gospel! Get this: The apostles stayed home while the church went out to preach. Even more, we see that Philip went to Samaria, which had been specifically forbidden during the limited commission. The door had been busted off the hinges and now stood wide open.

The commission continues to show its power when the church in Antioch sends out Saul (yes, the very one who had been a great persecutor of the church) and Barnabas for the first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-2). There is so much in this great chapter that it is difficult to be brief, but let’s try. The first verse shows the power of evangelism. “Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon [a Jewish name] who was called Niger [black], Lucius of Cyrene [a Roman name], Manaen [the foster brother of Herod Antipas who murdered John the Baptist] who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul [the former persecutor of Christians]”, (Acts 13:1). What a beautiful picture of the church of Christ. People from various nations, ethnicities, wealth and power all members of the one body of Christ! How did this happen? They were taught the gospel of Christ through evangelism.

Second, a reading of Acts 13-14 tells of the evangelistic efforts of Paul and Barnabas as they traveled around to various parts of the world preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ. A touching moment takes place in Acts 14:47-48: "For so the Lord has commanded us: I have set you as a light to the Gentiles that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth. Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region." The Gentiles were humbled when they learned that the Lord loved them too, and desired their salvation. This should be the attitude of every person when they hear the gospel: The Lord wants even me! With all my sin and shortcomings, the perfect Lord loves me. With this attitude it is no wonder that multitudes of Gentiles obeyed the gospel call. Third, when Paul and Barnabas returned to the church in Antioch they delivered a report to the brethren: "Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27). Evangelism, and the excitement it generates, is not for a select few, but for all in the Lord's church. Each person in the church at Antioch was excited about the salvation of lost souls.

If you have enjoyed the benefits and blessings of God's salvation it is your duty to tell others how to receive the amazing mercy of the Lord. Are you excited about telling others of the Christ who died for them? Are you concerned that the majority of the world is lost? (Matthew 7:13-14) The Lord has busted the hinges off the door of evangelism. Will you go through it?

"There is no way they would be interested in the Gospel." Jesus simply didn't do that. No matter how unpromising the door may have looked, Jesus knocked.

While waiting for a drink of water by Jacob's well He encountered a woman with a very checkered past. She had been married five times and was currently living with another man. Most of us would have walked right past this door, assuming she would never open her heart to the Gospel, but not Jesus, He knocked. "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" (John 4:10). Her reaction? She not only opened the door to her heart, but also knocked on the doors of everyone in her village, and they opened their hearts too. "The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him...and many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did" (John 4:28-30,39). A door that most of us would have ignored, Jesus knocked on, and it led to countless doors being opened. **Brandon Britton is a missionary to Latin America. He works with the Latin American missions which is overseen by the elders of Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta Georgia.**

Unlike Pharaoh and Cain, the eunuch opened the door and invited Christ in. “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:36-37). Jesus knocked, the eunuch opened, the Lord entered his life and the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39). During His earthly ministry, Jesus encountered many doors that had been ignored for ages. These doors were grown over with weeds and hadn’t been opened in a very long time .I have been on countless door knocking campaigns and admittedly, it is human nature to look at some people and think to yourself,

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Doorkeeper at the Lord’s House

Tony Choate

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings I get up at 5:05 AM and head over to a gym to play some basketball. It helps to keep me from quickly ballooning to an enormous weight due to my nightly snacking and insistence on drinking a lot of sweet tea. I suppose they cancel each other out. Playing basketball is my way of burning calories. A while back I jammed one of my fingers and boy did it hurt. I was doubled over in pain. A couple of weeks later my finger still hurts when I make a hard pass or shoot the basketball. It has affected my ability to play Paul wrote “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” (1 Cor. 12:12) He goes on to talk about how each member of that one body is important to the body as a whole. The eye, ear, hand and every other body part plays an important role in the function of the entire body. I am a grown man, yet when one of my fingers is not functioning properly, I am unable to do the typical, simple tasks I would normally be able to accomplish. Even if I am able to do those things, they become much more difficult to do. I need my entire body working at 100% in order to reach my full capability as a person.

The body of Christ is exactly the same. Each individual member is a valuable part of Christ’s body, the church. (Eph. 5:23) It is up to us to realize what role we play in the Lord’s church and take this job serious. Everyone doesn’t possess the same talents and abilities and thus we are all different. Different is a good thing. Just as the body needs different parts with different abilities, so does Christ’s body as well.

As Paul would go on to say in 1 Cor. 12:13-31, the body needs eyes that can see, ears that can hear, hands that can reach out and mouths that can speak. Every part of the body is important and thus the jobs of each part of the body are important as well.

The Lord's church is made up of individuals who serve so many different roles; from preaching to encouraging, cleaning the floors to counting the contribution, teaching Bible classes to greeting visitors. All jobs in the Lord's church are valuable jobs. Psalm 84:10 – "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." What a wonderful declaration. The Psalmist writer states he would rather stand at the door of God's house than to live in the spoil of the wicked.

How many of us make this same statement with our mouths, but our lives speak something opposite? We tell our children, God and His church are number one in our lives, but find no time for Him in our home. Our voices profess such wonderful declarations, but when asked to do the Lord's work, no matter how lowly the task, we are too busy. Would standing at the door of the Lord's house and greeting visitors be a job that is beneath you? Does the idea of walking across the street and inviting a neighbor to worship services seem like a job for the preacher and not for you? Are you too "good" to mow the church yard, clean the toilets or prepare the Lord's Supper?

God's own Son was willing to come to this earth in the form of man and humble Himself. He lowered Himself to the floor at the feet of the disciples and proceeded to wash their feet. Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher the earth has

Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them" (Exodus 8:15,19).

As with Abel, the time came when the Lord no longer knocked and pleaded, but came in judgement. "I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD" (Exodus 14:17-18). When He came in judgement there was no hiding behind locked, guarded palace doors. Even in Pharaoh's palace the firstborn died. Within days of the tenth plague, Pharaoh and his army would be destroyed.

The Doors Of The Humble

While walking upon the earth, Jesus explained that He had come to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Perhaps the greatest demonstration of His willingness to seek out the lost is in the case of the nobleman from Ethiopia. While traveling back from worshipping in Jerusalem, he was reading from Isaiah 53 and wondering if Isaiah was writing about himself or someone else. He was seeking God but did not understand what God wanted from him. It was at this moment the Lord sent someone to "knock on his door." Phillip got into the chariot with the eunuch, "opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him” (Genesis 4:6-7). The Lord knocked, but Cain slammed the door and murdered his brother. If he thought he could dismiss the Lord so easily, he was terribly mistaken. You might say that the Lord, after Cain’s rebellious, violent rejection, kicked in the door. “And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand” (Genesis 4:10). The time for knocking and pleading had passed, the time for judgement had arrived.

Many years later God would knock on another door. This time it was the door to a palace. Pharaoh wasn’t just the ruler of Egypt, he was one of the most powerful men on the face of the Earth, and God knocked on the door of his heart. “And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me” (Exodus 8:1). Pharaoh would hear the knocking at his heart, open the door and then slam it in the Lord’s face. . He would do this time and time again. In fact, he would do it ten times. With each knocking and rejection, his heart would grow harder and harder. “But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them...

Ever known, yet he was also willing to do the work that needed to be done and teach the lessons that needed to be taught. Lessons taught, not by words alone, but by actions as well.

While typing this article I am reminded of my finger. Each time I extend it to type a “y” it hurts. It doesn’t want to do its job without “complaining”. The rest of my fingers have to work harder and thus I am not able to type as well because of this one member that is just not “carrying its weight.” Are you that one small member that is not carrying its weight? Have you searched out and found your talent? Do you know where you fit in the body of Christ? Are you continuing to look for more ways that you can make the body of Christ work even more efficiently? No job is too small. No member is not needed. God is looking for more doorkeepers in His house. Are you a doorkeeper doing a poor job because you would rather be doing something else? Do what you do well. There is a reward in Heaven waiting for good doorkeepers.

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www.tia-ministries.com

Jesus Is the Only Door

Larry Reynolds

The book of John is sometimes called the “Gospel of Belief” and rightly so. Its purpose and design is to help us believe. (John 20:30-31) “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”. In John chapter ten Jesus makes two “I AM” statements in which He clearly states for the people in general and the Pharisees in particular what a **“true”** Good Shepherd should look like. He states that “I AM” “the Door of the sheep” (v. 10) and “I AM” the Good Shepherd” (v. 11). These statements are made in view what took place in the previous chapter. You may remember early in chapter nine when the blind man was confronted by Jesus, and Jesus became the deciding factor and turning point in the blind man’s life. In the process of being healed the blind man believed and worshiped Jesus (John 9:38). The blind man became a follower of Jesus after being cast out by the Pharisees, he now stand with Jesus. He is now about to learn more about Jesus as he listens to Jesus teach about being the “only door”.

First, He presents an exclusive claim (10:7) “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. The whole point of this story is that there are two kinds of sheepfolds – the first type was large enough to hold several flocks, it was fairly substantially built, and was cared for by a porter or gate keeper. The second kind was often little more than a rough circle of stone and the shepherd himself lay down across the opening an entrance into the sheepfold. The Shepherd was the door.

“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” (John 3:16). “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us” (Ephesians 2:4). He will do it for you because He has done the exact same thing for every other person who has ever walked the face of the earth. Sadly, most will never answer the door, yet He continues to knock, and He will continue to knock until your life ends or the time comes for Him to return in judgement. For the purpose of our study, perhaps it would be good for us to examine some of the various doors He has knocked on throughout history.

The Doors Of The Wicked

Early in Scripture we are introduced to two brothers who are forever linked due to tragedy. One became the first person in history (as far as the Bible reveals) to die, while the other became the first murderer. However, before tragedy struck, the Lord was knocking at the door of Cain’s heart, trying to keep him from sin. “But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell” (Genesis 4:5). It was at this point that the Lord reached out to Cain and started knocking at the door of his heart. “And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth?”

I stand at the door and knock

Brandon Britton

When I was a kid my dad would pick me up from my grandmother's house when he got off work and his truck would be blaring 50's music. He always said he had been born in the wrong era and should have been a teenager in the 1950's. Although I rolled my eyes whenever he cranked up the volume, I grew to love that simple, innocent music. One of my favorites was song popularized by Little Richard, simply titled, Keep-A-Knockin. The lyrics are very simple. In fact, there are really only two lines repeated over and over in the song. "Keep a knockin' but you can't come in, come back tomorrow night and try it again" and "You said you love me and you can't come in, come back tomorrow night and try it again." It's a simple song and a fun song, but for many reading these words, it should be your theme song. For nearly two thousand years Jesus has said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Your entire life He has stood at the doorway to your heart and knocked. Hoping you would open your heart to Him. Wanting a relationship with you .

And if you don't answer the door, He will come back again and knock some more. He will tell you that He loves you and try again.

No sheep could get out and no enemy could come in except over his body. In a very literal sense, the shepherd was the door. There was no way in or out except through him.

There is a certain exclusiveness about "the door." In our time it is not politically correct to maintain that there is but one door into the kingdom of heaven. The world does not like these words of Jesus that say, "You must enter my way or stay outside! You cannot demand another door!" Jesus is not suggesting that there are several doors to salvation and that he is but one of them. He says that he is "the" door. We are not to think of many ways of coming to God. Jesus is saying He is the one way, the door by which all sheep to enter. Yet we are hearing more and more that there are many ways that lead to salvation and we have the right choose the way we want to go. This is being said even in view of the different ways the Bible tells us that Jesus and His way is the only way. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13,14) "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Second, He makes a glorious offer (v. 9). "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." The glorious offer of salvation awaits the one that would enter the door of the sheepfold. It is sin that separates us from God. It is a wall of sin that is separating God and man.

If there is no way over the wall then our only hope is for some way through the wall. God provided "the door" that would allow the lost to come to Him and enjoy salvation. But please notice in verse 9 that Jesus said "if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." Christ forces no one to enter. It is your choice and my choice if we will enter the door. It is there, but we must walk through it. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

Our eternal destiny comes down to this point, who will we follow? Jesus said, "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:8-9) Will you and I obey God and hear His voice and enter through the only door?

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