

REVELATION – SERMON 25

CHRIST KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

Revelation 3:20-22

INTRODUCTION

- Many once sound and Christ honouring churches have, over time, departed from the Lord so that He is no longer with them.
- Without Christ, the church is dead. He is the vine, we are the branches (John 15:5); He is the head of the body (Colossians 1:18); He nourishes and cherishes the church (Ephesians 5:29)
- If Christ is taken away, the source of life is removed.
- The church of the Laodiceans was wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked because Christ was outside of the door.
- We come today to one of the most well-known verses in Revelation.
- The Lord Jesus in His own words, gives one of the most precious depictions of Himself, His love and His tenderness as can be found in all of Scripture.

I. THE SAVIOUR'S SOLICITATION

A. Behold

1. The blind Laodiceans are called to “see” and attend to what Christ says to them
2. Though blinded by Satan, the grace of God brings illumination to understand the gospel (John 1:9)

B. His location – *the door*

1. This applies to the church as a whole
 - a. Christ loves the church and desires her to be glorious, holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27)
 - b. The whole church needed to come to repentance and receive the Lord who they had heretofore rejected
2. Yet it applies more particularly to the individual
 - a. It is for “any man” who is willing to hear and open to the Lord

- b. The door then is the heart, soul and life of a sinner who, in his unregenerate state, is without Christ
 - 3. Note that this verse has been misused evangelistically
 - a. Sinners are told that all they must do to be saved is “invite Jesus into your heart” by means of reciting a “sinner’s prayer” with no requirement of repentance (turning from sin) and faith (wholly trusting in Christ alone for justification and life)
 - 4. Yet this verse can and should be used as an appeal to lost sinners
 - a. Salvation by faith is *receiving* the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (John 1:12)
 - b. Genuine salvation is not a mere assenting to a set of propositions, but is a receiving of a Person (1 John 5:11-12)
 - 5. Note that Christ takes the initiative in salvation – He comes to us and seeks us
- C. His posture – *standing*
- 1. He stands, in readiness to enter to those who open to Him
 - 2. He stands, in readiness to depart from those who reject Him
- D. His action – *knocking and speaking*
- 1. He does not barge, ram or force the door open, but leaves the sinner to choose to open it
 - 2. He knocks by general revelation, conscience, mercies, judgments, providences
 - 3. He speaks by His word and Spirit
 - 4. The knock reveals the presence of a person, the voice reveals their identity.

II. THE SINNER’S OBLIGATION

- A. Hear Christ’s voice
 - 1. God the Father commanded, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.” (Matthew 17:5)
 - 2. The time to hear is *today* (Hebrews 3:7-8)

3. Most will refuse to listen (Psalm 81:8-11; Jeremiah 6:16; Matthew 23:37; Acts 7:57)
4. Yet a few will, by God's grace, hear, understand, and bear fruit (Matthew 13:23)

B. Open the door

1. This is the free exercise of man's will to believe in Christ
2. Faith is opening the door to Christ and receiving Him

III. THE SUBLIME BENEFACTION

A. Fellowship with Christ

1. "I will come in to him"
 - a. Zacchaeus believed and joyfully received Christ into his house (Luke 19:1-10)
 - b. "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:21-23)
 - c. There is certainty in this promise – Christ *will* come to those who respond in faith (John 6:37)
2. "Sup with him"
 - a. This "supper" was the principal meal at the close of the day when there was time and leisure for talking and intimate fellowship
 - b. This personal supping with the Lord is realised corporately in the Lord's Supper and will be consummated in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Matthew 26:29; Revelation 19:9)
 - c. Note that usually the host must make all the provision for the guest, but in this case, the Guest brings with Him in abundance all the supply that is needed or could ever be desired
 - d. When He enters, He makes the abode a palace fit for a King, a temple fit for God Himself to dwell in

B. Ruling with Christ

1. Promise to the overcomer
 - a. Every true believer is an overcomer (1 John 5:5)

- b. In the Laodiceans' case, it designates those who overcome their lukewarmness, self-reliance and pride by repentance and faith
2. To sit with Christ in His throne
- a. This verse shows that though Christ is now glorified and enthroned in heaven, His throne and kingdom is yet future (Matthew 25:31), and He presently at the right hand of the Father, in His Father's throne.
 - b. This demonstrates the glorious grace of God, that such wretched sinners who were about to be spewed out of Christ's mouth were invited to sit with Him in His throne.
 - c. Believers are promised not only to enter into eternal life and dwell with God, but to be exalted in Christ's kingdom to reign with Him over the world (1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 1:6; 2:26-27)

CONCLUSION

1. God created man to love and commune with his Creator
2. Since the fall, God has sought to restore that lost fellowship (Genesis 3:9)
3. Christ's atonement has made it possible for us to be reconciled to God
4. Those who by faith receive Christ are blessed with the fellowship of the Lord
5. When Christ comes in, He comes on His terms – as Lord and Master
6. Can you truly say that you not only bear the name, "Christian", but have a conscious, experiential fellowship with the Son of God?
7. To refuse to heed His knocking is to rudely insult the Lord and to commit the murder of one's own soul
8. Each time the knocking is ignored, it becomes easier the next time until there is eventually no thought given to His knocking.
9. His Spirit will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3) and He will eventually leave those who refuse Him.
10. Multitudes are now in the torments of hell, wishing they could hear Christ's knock just one more time (Proverbs 1:24-31)
11. "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" (Isaiah 55:6)
12. Those who are Christ's have the privilege and responsibility to be His instruments in knocking on sinner's hearts through the gospel (Mark 16:16; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)