



TRUE LIGHT

WHICH SIDE OF THE DOOR?

Most of us are probably familiar with a painting and/or some other representation that depicts Jesus standing at a door and knocking. Each of these are intended to be a visual representation of these words found in Revelation 3:20:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

There is probably no way to estimate the number of applications that have been made of this text or of the painting. Most of them have to do with the desire of Jesus to have a relationship with us (and us with Him). In addition to that, there is often an application that reminds us that He will not force that relationship upon anybody. It is up to each person to open the door and invite Him to have that relationship with us.

You may have even heard that the original artist was criticized because he had omitted the latch on the door in his painting. His response was something to the effect that it was not an omission. Rather, it was intentional. He is reported to have said that the latch was on the inside of the door because it was up to the person on the inside of the house to let Jesus enter.

I heard something recently that really challenged my thinking about this. I really wish that I could remember where I heard it so that I could "give credit where credit is due," but I cannot.

Somebody suggested a more modern and maybe more accurate picture. In this picture, Jesus would still be standing at a door and He would still be wanting the door to be opened. In this picture, however, the door would not be symbolic of entrance into a relationship with a person.



Instead, in this picture, the door would be the door of a church building. Another difference would be that, instead of wanting to gain entrance, Jesus would be wanting to get out to interact with people outside the walls of the church building. I'm wondering if that could actually be an accurate picture of what passes for Christianity today?

My father was a member of an organization that was, in effect, a sort of "closed society." It was so secretive that even I, his only child, do not know much about it. What I do know is that a person could not just choose on his own to be a part of that organization. The terms of membership, the rituals, the rules, etc. were all kept "in house." I can still remember men coming to our house to meet with my father, both of them sitting in an automobile in our driveway (away from my mother and me), and dad *apparently* teaching the other man some of the secrets of the organization.

Is this what the Lord intended for His church to be? Is it what people who claim to be a part of that church have become? Do we have our own vocabulary, procedures, etc. that we are very careful to keep "in house"?

As one reads the history of the church during the time in which the New Testament was being written, we will read about people who were fulfilling the Lord's command to "GO" with the message of the gospel (Matt. 28:18; Mark 16:16). Yes, there were specific terms of entrance into the church and, yes, there were expectations about such things as conduct, worship, organization, etc. but these things were not "locked away behind closed doors." Instead, even in the midst of severe persecution, these people went everywhere *preaching the word* (Acts 8:4, NKJV).

In the actual picture of Jesus at the door and the suggested update, Jesus is on different sides of the door. In one, He's wanting to get in and in the other He's wanting to get out. In both, the decision to allow Him to do what He desires to do is on the **inside** of the door.

I pray that all of us will think about that!

Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

March 17, 2024

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Rodney Williams

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 17 - Brian Thomason
March 22 - Cindy Williams
March 23 - Wes Howard
Loretta Zimmerman
Mark & Rita Clayton (A)
March 24 - Ashley Johnson



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Salsa/Picante Sauce * Coffee * Cereal *
Tissues * Velveeta Cheese *
Chocolate Chips
Pick up date: May 20



WILLING TO SERVE

March 17, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Prayer.....Jacob Clayton
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

March 24, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

PREPARING A PLACE FOR US

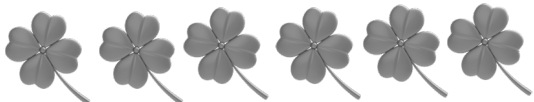
Our family was planning to get a puppy, so my eleven-year-old daughter researched for months. She knew what the dog should eat and how to introduce it to our new home - among myriad other details.

Turns out puppies do best, she told me, if they're introduced to one room at a time. So we carefully prepared a spare bedroom. I'm sure there will still be surprises as we raise our new puppy, but my daughter's delight-infused preparation couldn't have been more thorough.

The way my daughter channeled her eager anticipation for a puppy into loving preparation reminded me of Christ's longing to share life with His people and His promise to prepare a home for them. Nearing the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus urged His disciples to trust Him, saying, *You believe in God; believe also in me* (John 14:1). Then He promised to *prepare a place for [them]...that [they] also may be where [He is]* (V 3).

The disciples would soon face trouble. But Jesus wanted them to know that He was at work to bring them home to Him.

I can't help but delight in the careful, deliberate intent with which my daughter had prepared for our new puppy. But I can only imagine how much more our Savior is delighting in His own detailed preparation for each of His people to share eternal life with Him (V 2). Adam R. Holz



Attendance for March 10: 102

Contribution for March 3: \$4967

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Larry Summers has been moved to room 551 at Mercy in Cape * Trish Baldwin at home recovering from a fall last week * Becky Johnson will be having additional surgery in a few months * Roxanne Carson, Rodney Britt, and Joe Vincent currently undergoing treatments for cancer * Sue Flowers continuing to decline but has had a few good days recently * Maura Thomason will be having a fluoroscopy and a steroid epidural on her spine April 11 *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Brynlee Douglas * Shirley Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead*

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY through Wednesday: Gospel Meeting at Gideon with guest speaker Brent Newton. The theme is on practical applications from James. Sunday they will have a 1 p.m. evening service; Monday-Wednesday they will meet at 7.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Taco salad. Desserts will be needed.

March 20-22 - Evangelism Seminar at the West End Congregation. More information is on the bulletin board by the nursery.

March 24 - Children's Easter party/egg hunt at the building at 3 p.m. Please see Cindy Williams or Millie Dauck if you have children/grandchildren planning to attend and if you can help with the party.

March 24-27 - Gospel Meeting at Fisk with guest speaker Todd Clippard.

March 31 - We will have an Easter dinner in the fellowship room following morning worship. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer. If you think you'd like to be a part of this meal, please please sign the sheet.

April 7-10 - Our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton. The theme is "The Love of God." Be praying now for a successful meeting.

April 27 & 28: Seeking the Truth Seminar at Highland Drive church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

BIBLE TRIVIA:

King Saul sat under what kind of tree while Jonathan went to attack the Philistines?

Answer: Pomegranate tree