

**"WILL YOU PLEASE,
ANSWER THE DOOR?"**



REVELATION 3:15-22

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WILL YOU PLEASE ANSWER THE DOOR?

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INTRODUCTION

MY DAD IN THE MIDDLE 1970'S WAS A DOOR KNOCKING INSURANCE AGENT.

DAD USED TO TELL ME ABOUT TIMES WHEN HE WOULD GO TO SOMEONE'S HOUSE AND KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND THEY NEVER ANSWERED THE DOOR.

DAD SAID, I COULD HEAR NOISES ON THE INSIDE BUT THEY WOULD NOT RESPOND TO THE KNOCK ON THE OUTSIDE.

DAD TOLD ME ONCE ABOUT A TIME HE KNOCKED ON A PERSON'S DOOR FOR (15) MINUTES...I ASKED HIM WHY?

DAD SAID, I KNOCKED INTENTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY BECAUSE THIS TIME – I HAD SOMETHING I DESPERATELY NEEDED TO **GIVE** TO THEM, **OFFER** THEM, **BESTOW UPON** THEM, **PRESENT UNTO** THEM.

IN OUR TEXT, GOD IS THE DOOR KNOCKER.

IN THE TEXT, GOD DESIRES TO COME IN AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ME AND YOU BUT WE HAVE TO OPEN THE DOOR.

THE FAMOUS PAINTING BY HOLMAN HUNT ENTITLED DOOR WITH NO HANDLE – THE ONLY HANDLE ON THE DOOR IS ON THE INSIDE OF THE HOUSE.

THE PICTURE REVEALS JESUS STANDING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, CONTINUOUSLY KNOCKING ON A DOOR WITH NO OUTSIDE DOORKNOB.

THE IMAGE REVEALS OUR GOD NOT PUSHING OPEN THE DOOR OR KNOCKING DOWN THE DOOR – BUT WAITING PATIENTLY FOR US TO OPEN THE DOOR OURSELVES.

TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR AND TELL THEM: WILL YOU PLEASE ANSWER THE DOOR?

GOD IS ALWAYS KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR!

HOW DOES GOD KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR?

GOD KNOCKS THROUGH YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES!

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS WEEK – CAN YOU HEAR GOD KNOCKING?

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS MONTH – CAN YOU HEAR GOD KNOCKING?

WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON THIS YEAR – CAN YOU HEAR GOD KNOCKING?

THIS SERMON THAT I AM PREACHING RIGHT NOW – IS GOD KNOCKING...

GOD IS ALWAYS KNOCKING...WILL YOU PLEASE ANSWER THE DOOR?

*IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DILEMMAS...IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DECISIONS...IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DISTRESSES
IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DETOURS...IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DISPLEASURES...IN EVERY ONE OF YOUR DISAPPOINTMENTS*

THERE IS A DOOR...AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR...STANDS GOD...KNOCKING AND SHOUTING “LET ME IN”!

WILL YOU PLEASE, ANSWER THE DOOR.....?!

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT:

HOLD UP, WAIT A MINUTE – LET ME PUT SOME BIBLE IN IT...

HOW DID GOD GET ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE DOOR?

[REVELATIONS 3:15-22]

15 “I KNOW YOUR WORKS, THAT YOU ARE NEITHER COLD NOR HOT. I COULD WISH YOU WERE COLD OR HOT.

16 SO THEN, BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM, AND NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, I WILL VOMIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH.

17 BECAUSE YOU SAY, ‘I AM RICH, HAVE BECOME WEALTHY, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING’—AND DO NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED—

18 I COUNSEL YOU TO BUY FROM ME GOLD REFINED IN THE FIRE, THAT YOU MAY BE RICH; AND WHITE GARMENTS, THAT YOU MAY BE CLOTHED, THAT THE SHAME OF YOUR NAKEDNESS MAY NOT BE REVEALED; AND ANOINT YOUR EYES WITH EYE SALVE, THAT YOU MAY SEE.

19 AS MANY AS I LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN. THEREFORE BE ZEALOUS AND REPENT.

20 BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK. IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM AND DINE WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.

21 TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES I WILL GRANT TO SIT WITH ME ON MY THRONE, AS I ALSO OVERCAME AND SAT DOWN WITH MY FATHER ON HIS THRONE.

22 “HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.””

A. THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT LAODICEA ‘**EVICTED**’ JESUS CHRIST FROM THEIR CHURCH.

1. JESUS HAS BEEN EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THIS CHURCH.
2. JESUS HAS BEEN LOCKED OUT OF THIS CHURCH.
3. HAS JESUS BEEN PUT OUT OF **YOUR** PLANS?
4. HAS THE WILL OF GOD BEEN EXTINGUISHED IN **YOUR** EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES?
5. HAS CHRIST BEEN KICKED OUT OF **YOUR** CAMP?
6. JESUS IS ON THE OUTSIDE TRYING TO GAIN ADMISSION, TRYING TO GET INSIDE.

B. **NOTICE THE WORDS “THE CHURCH ‘OF’ THE LAODICEANS” [VERSE 14]**

1. EVERY OTHER CHURCH MENTIONED IN [REVELATION 2 AND 3] WAS ‘**THE LORD’S CHURCH**’ IN THAT CITY.
2. THE **CHURCH IN** EPHEBUS
3. THE **CHURCH IN** SMYRNA
4. THE **CHURCH IN** PERGAMOS
5. THE **CHURCH IN** THYATIRA
6. THE **CHURCH IN** SARDIS
7. THE **CHURCH IN** PHILADELPHIA
8. BUT THIS CHURCH...LITERALLY SAYS,
9. THE CHURCH **OF** THE LAODICEANS
10. IN LAODICEA, IT WAS **THEIR** CHURCH (***BODY, MONEY, & WILL***), AND **NOT** THE LORD’S CHURCH (***BODY, MONEY, & WILL!***)

C. FOR THE SECOND TIME -- JESUS FINDS NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT THIS CHURCH!

1. WHY? BECAUSE, THEY DID AS THEY PLEASED!!
2. ONE THING THAT ***DISPLEASES*** THE LORD IS, ANY TIME A CHRISTIAN IS ***PLEASED***, BY DOING WHAT ***THEY*** PLEASE.
3. **IS THAT WHY GOD CAN'T FIND...ONE GOOD THING TO SAY ABOUT YOU...**
4. IS ***YOUR*** WAY GREATER THAN ***YAHWEH*** → DOES WALKING BY 'SIGHT' MAKE MORE SENSE THAN WALKING BY 'FAITH'?

D. JESUS KNOWS OUR WORKS--- [V.15] – YOU CANNOT DUPE THE DIVINE...

¹⁵ "I KNOW YOUR WORKS, THAT YOU ARE NEITHER COLD NOR HOT. I COULD WISH YOU WERE COLD OR HOT.

1. **GOD KNOWS WHY SOME OF US WON'T ANSWER THE DOOR –**
2. BECAUSE GOD KNOWS – WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW.
3. THAT IF WE ANSWER THE DOOR (ANSWER THE CALL)
4. WE KNOW GOD WANTS US TO STOP SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE DOING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR!

E. LET ME PAUSE FOR A 'SIN' IDENTIFICATION:

1. WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR THAT PLEASES **YOU** BUT **DISPLEASES GOD**

2. WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR SATISFIES YOU BUT IT IS DISSATISFYING TO GOD?
3. WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR THAT MAKES YOU SMILE BUT IT MAKES GOD CRY?

THERE WERE THREE PROBLEMS WITH THIS CHURCH (CHRISTIAN): [VERSES 16 AND 17]

¹⁶ SO THEN, BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM, AND NEITHER COLD NOR HOT I WILL VOMIT YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH.

¹⁷ BECAUSE YOU SAY, 'I AM RICH, HAVE BECOME WEALTHY, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING'—AND DO NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED—

1. FIRST – IT ALWAYS BEGINS WITH THE PROBLEM OF 'POSSESSION'.

A. WE MUST SUBMIT TO HAVE AUTHORITY! → WE MUST LOSE CONTROL IN ORDER TO GAIN CONTROL!

1. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS CHURCH WAS A PROBLEM OF POSSESSION (WHO'S IN CONTROL?).
2. IF WE WANT GOD'S BEST FOR OUR LIVES – WE GOT TO BE HONEST WITH GOD ABOUT WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES!

B. THAT'S WHY JESUS IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS:

1. IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS IS NOT HERE TO DILUTE THE TRUTH
2. JESUS IS NOT HERE TO DISTORT THE TRUTH
3. JESUS IS HERE TO DELIVER UNTO US THE TRUTH

4. NOW, WHENEVER YOU GET TRUTH – YOU OUGHT TO RESPOND BY SAYING AMEN. TRUTH ALWAYS BREEDS AN AMEN.

C. JESUS IS THE AMEN OF GOD!

1. AMEN IS THE FINAL WORD ON THE MATTER
2. AMEN MEANS THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO SAY
3. AMEN IS THE LAST WORD AFTER ALL THE OTHER WORDS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED
4. IF WE WANT GOD’S BEST FOR OUR LIVES – WE GOT TO BE HONEST WITH GOD ABOUT WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES!
5. AND IF YOU KNOW WHAT I AM SAYING IS THE TRUTH...SOMEBODY OUGHT TO SAY...AMEN...

2. SECOND, THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEIR ‘CONDITION’.

A. THEY WERE NEITHER COLD NOR HOT.

1. YOU REMEMBER, THE CHURCH AT SARDIS WAS A COLD CHURCH.
2. THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA WAS A HOT CHURCH.
3. BUT HERE IN LAODICEA WAS A CHURCH THAT WAS NEITHER HOT NOR COLD. IT WAS LUKEWARM!
 - WHEN YOU ARE HOT – YOU ARE CLOSE TO GOD AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN SEE IT
 - WHEN YOU ARE COLD – YOU ARE FAR FROM GOD AND YOU CAN FEEL IT

- BUT WHEN YOU ARE LUKEWARM – YOU ARE AWAY FROM GOD BUT DON'T DO A THING ABOUT IT

HISTORICAL REFLECTION:

LUKEWARM! ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVERED AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT THE CITY OF LAODICEA.

THIS CITY OBTAINED THEIR WATER THROUGH TWO RIVERS – FROM A HOT SPRING AT HIERAPOLIS,

AND FROM A COLD SPRING IN COLOSSAE

THESE TWO SPRINGS (HOT AND COLD) FLOWED THROUGH ONE AQUEDUCT TO BRING LUKEWARM WATER INTO THE CITY!

THE ONLY THING LUKEWARM WATER WAS GOOD FOR WAS FOR WASHING HANDS.

THAT'S WHY JESUS DOES NOT WANT YOU TO BE "LUKEWARM"

BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE LUKEWARM... YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF "WASHING YOUR HANDS" OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH GOD.

WHO ENJOYS WARM SODA

OR WARM COFFEE?

NO ONE BECAUSE IT IS "LUKEWARM"!

ILLUSTRATION

RESTAURANT MANAGERS TRAIN THEIR SERVERS TO MAKE SURE THEY KEEP ADDING **HOT COFFEE TO COFFEE** AND **COLD, ICED WATER TO WATER**

-- WHY? THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS IS CALLED OPEN SYSTEM

– IT TEACHES THAT UNLESS SOMETHING IS CONSTANTLY ADDED...TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ADDED AND POURED IN...TO THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN POURED...THAT WHICH IS ALREADY POURED IN..LOSES ITS ZEST.

WITHOUT MORE ICED WATER TO WATER, IT BECOMES LUKEWARM (THAT'S THE LAW OF OPEN SYSTEM)
WITHOUT MORE HOT COFFEE TO COFFEE, IT BECOMES LUKEWARM (THAT'S THE LAW OF OPEN SYSTEM)

THAT'S WHY THE CHURCH (THE HEART OF A CHILD OF GOD) CANNOT BE A "CLOSED SYSTEM."

THE MOMENT YOU CLOSE YOUR HEART TO THE THINGS OF GOD, WORD OF GOD, WILL OF GOD, WAY OF GOD...ALL THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED IN YOUR LIFE (LOSES ITS ZEST)

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? GOD NEEDS TO KEEP ADDING TO YOU!

TELL YOURSELF: "SELF, KEEP YOURSELF OPEN TO THE WORD OF GOD!" CLOSED SYSTEMS DIE!. OPEN SYSTEMS LIVE.!

A. THE TEXT DECLARES [VERSE 16] LUKE WARMNESS MAKES GOD WANT TO SPUE YOU OUT, VOMIT, REGURGITATE, AND THROW UP!

1. ***'LUKEWARM' WORSHIP* MAKES GOD WANT TO THROW UP!**
2. ***'LUKEWARM' COMMITMENT* MAKES GOD WANT TO THROW UP!**
3. ***'LUKEWARM' (WARM COFFEE, OR WARM SODA) IN RELATION TO YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD MAKES HIM WANT TO THROW UP!***
4. **HAS YOUR COMMITMENT TO GOD COOLED OFF? (IT MAKES GOD WANT TO THROW UP!)**

5. HAS YOUR REACTION TO HIS WILL, WORD, AND WAY BEEN **REDUCED TO ROOM TEMPERATURE?** (IT MAKES GOD WANT **TO THROW UP!**)

B. GOD DOES NOT GET NAUSEATED WITH A SINNER (THEY ARE DOING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSE TO DO)

1. GOD GETS 'NAUSEATED' AT A CHILD OF GOD WHO CLAIMS TO KNOW HIM BUT WON'T FOLLOW HIM AND REFUSES TO LIVE THE LIFE!
2. GOD IS SAYING THIS CHILD OF MINE → MAKES ME WANT TO **THROW UP!**

3. THIRD, THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THEIR 'ATTENTION'.

A. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS CHURCH IN THE WORDS OF BISHOP EDDIE LONG OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA...“THEY WERE CAUGHT UP IN THING-DOM AND NOT KINGDOM”.

1. THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH...
2. CAUGHT UP IN **BLING** AND **THINGS** MORE THAN **THE KING OF KINGS!**
3. LOOK AT WHAT JESUS SAYS -- "I WANT TO COUNSEL YOU."
4. THE COUNSEL OF CHRIST IS TO BUY FROM ME THAT WHICH IS **FREE BUT NOT CHEAP!**
5. LOOK HOW THE LORD – BRINGS US BACK TO HIM - - THE LORD SAID, "I WANT YOU TO BUY FROM ME GOLD THAT HAS BEEN TRIED IN THE FIRE.
6. NOTHING MAKES GOD'S PEOPLE EXAMINE THEIR PRIORITIES FASTER THAN GOING THROUGH THE FIRE!

ILLUSTRATION:

VISINE HAS A DISCLAIMER ON THE BOTTLE THAT SAYS, IRRITATION PRECEDES ILLUMINATION – IT MIGHT BURN BEFORE IT GETS BRIGHTER – IT MIGHT STING BEFORE THINGS SHINE!

[VERSE 19] 'THOSE WHOM I LOVE, I REPROVE AND DISCIPLINE; BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT.

- GOD CANNOT
- GOD WILL NOT
- GOD NEVER HAS
- GOD NEVER WILL
- ALLOW YOU TO STAY IN THE SAD SHAPE THAT YOU ARE IN

[VERSE 19] ¹⁹ AS MANY AS I LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN. THEREFORE BE ZEALOUS AND REPENT.

CONCLUSION

LET ME CLOSE – I SAID EARLIER -- GOD IS SAYING WHAT YOU ARE DOING MAKES ME WANT TO **THROW UP!** IT MAKES ME WANT TO **SPUE** YOU OUT (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

A. SOMEBODY OUGHT TO REJOICE THIS MORNING THAT GOD HAS NOT SPIT YOU OUT YET!

[VERSE 20]

²⁰ ***“BEHOLD, I AM CONTINUALLY STANDING AT THE DOOR, AND I AM CONTINUALLY KNOCKING ON THE DOOR...”***

1. GOD NEVER GIVES UP IN HIS EFFORTS TO ENTER THE LIVES OF THOSE HE LOVES.
2. THAT’S WHY YOU WENT THROUGH WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH
3. GOD IS STILL KNOCKING
4. THAT’S WHY YOU ARE HERE THIS MORNING
5. GOD IS STILL KNOCKING
6. THAT’S WHY YOU ARE LISTENING TO ME PREACH RIGHT NOW
7. GOD IS STILL KNOCKING
8. CAN I GO AHEAD AND TESTIFY THAT I AM SO GLAD...GOD, NEVER GAVE UP ON ME!
9. I AM SO GLAD THAT GOD IS...STILL KNOCKING...WHICH LETS ME KNOW HE HASN’T LEFT ME YET!
10. I WISH I HAD SOME PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE. WHO WILL JUST REPEAT AFTER ME:
11. I AM GLAD...JESUS IS STILL KNOCKING ON MY DOOR
12. I GOT TO SIT DOWN NOW...BUT ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS OPEN THE DOOR!

A. ***THE HANDLE IS ON THE INSIDE. JESUS KNOCKS, BUT YOU MUST OPEN THE DOOR!***

1. ***“COME IN...SUP WITH HIM...AND HE WITH ME”*** –
2. **JESUS WANTS TO**

- **COME IN...**
- LET JESUS INTO YOUR STRUGGLES
- LET JESUS INTO YOUR STRESS
- LET JESUS INTO YOUR STORM
- ENCOURAGE SOMEBODY IN THE ROOM AND TELL THEM JESUS WANTS TO COME IN...
- WILL YOU JUST ANSWER THE DOOR?

3. **JESUS WANTS TO SUP WITH YOU...**

- THE ANCIENT GREEKS ENJOYED THREE MEALS.
- THEY USUALLY ATE A LARGE BREAKFAST
- A SMALLER LUNCH
- AND A LIGHT SUPPER BECAUSE THE EMPHASIS AT SUPPER WAS MORE ABOUT TALKING THAN EATING...
- MORE FELLOWSHIP THAN FOOD!

4. **JESUS SAYS, “IF YOU WILL JUST OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN AND HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU!”**

- IF YOU HANG OUT IN GOD’S SUPPER ROOM – YOU CAN HANG OUT IN GOD’S THRONE ROOM
- INTIMACY COMES BEFORE AUTHORITY

- ANYBODY WANT SOME AUTHORITY IN JESUS!

5. HELP ME ENCOURAGE (3) PEOPLE AROUND YOU AND TELL THEM:

- OPEN THE DOOR AND LET JESUS IN!