



Intro to the “Doors of Scripture”

Sunday, January 5, 2020

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One of the most beautiful things God has given us in the Bible (and in creation) is images to help us understand who He is and how we ought to relate to Him. When Jesus told parables about the kingdom of God, He would often start out by saying, “The kingdom of God is like...” and then proceed to use some image to help us understand what the kingdom of God is like. There are many other images like that in Scripture.

One of those images is of a door. The door image is used in various ways. They can represent passage ways, but also the blocking of passage. A door can represent potential—something that conceals great riches, but must be approached, knocked on, and opened. In all these ways doors are a helpful metaphor for our spiritual lives.

We must understand that faith is, in a sense, a door. Acts 14.27 tells us that the “door of faith” was open to the Gentiles. In this sense it is a passage way, but still with a threshold that clearly demarcates those who are in and those who are out. It is not enough to stand outside, or even at the threshold, and peer inside. One must take that step of allegiance and commitment to Christ in order to truly find in Him the riches of God’s blessings in salvation.

But God also uses the image of the door to describe His own attempts to fellowship with us as believers. In Revelation 3:20, we learn that to those who are lukewarm (another image!), Jesus stands at the door and knocks so that He might come in and fellowship with us. Churches can carry on with a lot of ministry and still be devoid of meaningful fellowship with Christ who is their Head (another image!).

Finally, we must recognize that ministry is another door, one which the Lord opens and closes at times unknown to us.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Acts 14:27; Revelation 3:20; Revelation 3:7-8

“Biblical Doors”

The Door of Faith

- Acts 14.27
- John 10.7, 9
- God opens doors
- Jesus is the door
- God shuts doors
- Matt. 25.10

The Door of Relationship

- Revelation 3.20
- Fellowship
- Christ is outside
- He must knock
- You must hear
- You must open

The Door of Ministry

- Revelation 3.8

Behold, I have set before you an open door!

Discuss

- 1) Read John 10:7-9. How do you know if you have entered “the door of faith”?
- 2) Read Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23. How might someone be mistaken as to what “gate” or “door” they are entering?
- 3) What is your plan for regular communion with God this year (in study and prayer, especially)?
- 4) How do you know if a “door of ministry” is open or closed?
- 5) Read Colossians 4:3. What doors are you praying for God to open for you to share about Christ?