

BEHOLD, JESUS IS KNOCKING

Greetings precious ones, in this week's article we are going to look at the fact that Jesus is knocking on the door to each person's heart desiring to enter in. In Revelation 3:20-21 we read Jesus making the following statement, "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."

It should be understood from the context of this verse (that is the verses that surround it) that Jesus was addressing a church in a city known as Laodicea. This church, the people not a "building" had become very focused on "self" which led them think that they were "self-sufficient"; "self-reliant"; "self-righteous". So much so that they did not even believe that they needed Jesus in their church or in their individual lives, how tragic!

Look at what else Jesus had to say to them in this regards, Revelation 3:15-17, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 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—"It is all too common that a person cannot see themselves for what they really are.

There are many today, myself included that believe this final letter of seven that Jesus wrote in the Book of Revelation is representative of the "last days" church. This is also known as the "apostate church" the church that has fallen away from the "truth" and Jesus. Yes, they may still make a profession of faith; go to church; sing songs; go through the motions but Jesus is not "in" their lives, He is not the center.

Return to the first verse we looked at, Jesus is not on the inside knocking, He is on the outside. The church had pushed Him outside, He was no longer welcome. Their programs; methods; self consumption had excluded Jesus from being the center of their lives and the church. There was an artist that painted a picture a number of years ago depicting this scene. In looking at it there is one noticeable absence on the door of which He is knocking, a door handle on His side. Jesus will not open the door to your heart; you must make that decision to open it to Him.

Jesus will not take second place to anyone or anything. He is the Lord God Almighty. He is to be loved above ALL else; served with everything that we have; feared; given the first place in our life.

It also needs to be understood that Jesus will not continue to knock indefinitely on a heart that insists on resisting Him. There can come a time when God says enough, you don't want anything to do with me, so be it. One of the most frightening things that Jesus ever uttered is found in this letter. In Revelation 3:16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

One final note, it is also sad that many are in this state today and don't even realize it, they think everything is fine. This was the case in Laodicea. In Revelation 3:17 "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—"

So where is Jesus in your church, your personal life? Is He at the center of all you are and do or is He on the outside looking in and knocking? The thing that astounds me most is that once He is thrown out of a church or person's life that He would be so gracious to make His desire known to return and be part of our lives. If Jesus is not pre-

emanate in your life today, I ask that you would listen to His voice and repent of your sin and invite Him to return and take the rightful throne in your heart.

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