

Today is Sunday October 06, 2024

The Lord Doesn't Knock

By Curtis Pugh 1944 – 2018

There is a popular but erroneous idea going about in some religious circles. It is that the Lord Jesus is standing outside knocking on the door of the sinner's heart, obviously wanting to come in. He is waiting on the sinner to open his heart's door. The idea comes from a misunderstanding of a part of one Bible verse: Revelation 3:20 which says: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." These words were not addressed to a sinner, but to the "angel" or messenger of a congregation. The context proves this. Verse 14 of that chapter says, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write..." The door at which the Lord Jesus is said to be standing is the door of the church or congregation in the ancient city of Laodicea. That church was in such a sorry spiritual condition that Christ was on the outside!

Further proof of this is seen in the Lord's promise. He said, "I will come in to him." He did not say I will come "into" him. Anyone who understands the English language will know the difference between coming "in to" a person and coming "into" a person. To come "in to" a person is to come "in to" where they are. To come "into" a person is to enter within that person or to indwell a person. There is absolutely no Bible basis for telling sinners that Jesus is standing at their heart's door patiently knocking waiting on them to open the door so He can come "into" them! That is a man-made teaching based upon the idea that God cannot save whom He wants to save when He wants to save them! It makes God a powerless failure to accomplish what He wants to do.

The fact is, God has the ability to open the heart. We read about Him doing that very thing in Acts 16:14 where the Bible says, "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened..." What! The Lord opened Lydia's heart? She did not open it! Why would the Lord stand knocking at the imaginary door of a sinner's heart when He has the power to open the heart? Why would a homeowner stand knocking at the door of his house while holding the key to that door in his hand?

Do not try to make an excuse saying that the Lord is waiting on the sinner to exercise his free will. The Bible says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure," (Philippians 2:13). God causes men to "to will" and "to do." He causes sinners "to want to" and "to do." Has the Father drawn you to Christ? (see John 6:44).

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-two years." Since October 21, 1961

1 2 1 7 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

Elder Randy Johnson, Pastor

903 – 490 – 3048

Pastor E-Mail pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com

Pastor's Blog: sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com

Church's Website – www.sgmbaptist.com

Churches Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/sgmPastor

E-Mail pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com

Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and

Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10 *"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."*

For us to properly serve God we must live and walk in Truth, the truth of His word. We must walk in the Spirit, (Gal. 5:16) and in doing so we will not in any way fulfill the lust of our old nature to disobey God. God told us here to *"Be still..."* Albert Barnes defined this phrase like this, *"It is also employed in the sense of not making an effort; not putting forth exertion; and then would express the idea of leaving matters with God, or of being without anxiety about the issue."* In Ex. 14:13 God told Moses, *"And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD..."* If we obey the Lord and "stand still" then in God's own time we will see the hand of God dealing with the issue. We need to remember what prayer is for and exercise our chain of communication to our Heavenly Father, then stand still and trust Him. Then the Lord tells us, *"and know that I am God."* The word "to know" is for us to know, to understand, to remember, to trust, that He is God, and it is in His hand and power. The Psalmist David wrote in Psalms 46:8 *"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth."* The word *"desolations"* is defined "ruin or waste" which is to be understood that the ruin or waste of our land or of the earth is God's workings and not "bad luck or something caused by another source." God is not only to be praised for the good but also for the desolations on the earth. God has many reasons and purposes for the ruin He causes, and one reason is to get the attention of the heathen. As Christians we are not to buy into the excuses of the world but in everything as the power and work of God, even in disasters. People who do not know God are excusable from seeing God's hand in things, but we who know God thru Jesus Christ are without excuse if we use the reasoning of the heathen to explain why something happens. We must exalt God in all things *"I will be exalted among the heathen."* The heathen must understand that God delivers these desolations to make the world understand their error. People who believe that God is not behind these events do not know the Omniscient and Omnipotent God we know. So, some might ask, "why would God cause such desolations on the earth, and God answered that question, *"I will be exalted in the earth..."* God is saying, "I will make myself glorious by my great and wonderful works."

Pastor's Thought Continued

The heathen need to understand that their sinful ways are and abomination to God. Sin is not ok; it is ok to disobey God. People want to believe these heathiest preachers that "God is love" and that "God loves everyone" and that "God wants nothing but the best for us." God is a God of judgment, Moses wrote *"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."* Deuteronomy 32:4 God destroyed this earth with a flood and killed every living soul except eight, why, "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5 Noah stood still, he did as God commanded, he built a ship on dry land, he knew it was God and he exalted God for the desolation that He brought. God was also exalted with the desolation of Sodom and Gomorrah *"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."* Genesis 13:13 God has not changed, as Christians we know the plan of God, we know the world is heading to many more desolations because of their evilness. God is not the bad here, He is a God that all His ways are judgment, and He is judging this world through desolations just as He has since creation. The desolations of this world, all of them have meaning, they are God's work and His judgments, we are to be still and praise God in them. God will be exalted by His people and someday by the very people He delivered these judgments too. *"...As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."* Rom. 14:11. Therefore, when these things happen, know that He is God and that these things are His judgments!

Church information and Happenings

- October 21, 2024, will be our churches Sixty-Third Anniversary.
- Our clocks will fall back one hour on November 03.
- Please remember to be in prayer for all the Hurricane Victims. There are millions of people and many of them Christians and Churches that have great need.

Psalms 80:17

"Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."