

Locked Doors

If we ever needed solid evidence of sin in the world, just consider locked doors. We lock our houses, cars, computers, gym lockers and many other things. If there were no sin, none would be needed.

Another Locked Door - Most people would welcome an open, comfortable relationship with God, but find that door locked. "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Men have invented various ways to try and break in, but are thwarted at every turn. Their sin, both natural and practiced, denies them access.

Only One Door-Opener - "*Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you*" (Matthew 7:7). For the door to God to open, we must come believing this verse, and humbly knock for admittance. That means understanding that God has provided only **one way** of approach, and that is through Jesus Christ, His Son; including all He accomplished when He died on the cross of Calvary. The Lord Jesus said the words quoted above. He is righteous and holy; you therefore might think we could never stand in His presence, but He is so gracious; He actually welcomes anyone who has faith to simply knock on His door for entrance. Jesus said "*him that comes to Me I will in no wise cast out*" (John 6:37).

Historic Paintings - Many artists have illustrated the Lord Jesus knocking at a closed door with no handle on the outside. Yet, He begins the work of salvation in our souls by remembered scriptures, by answering prayers of parents or friends, through a faithful preacher, or desperate circumstances; He uses various ways to bring you to answer His knocking, bidding you to unlock your heart to Him.

Why Not Tonight? - This is part of an old gospel hymn. The point being, there is no better time than **right now** to come to Jesus, acknowledging your sins and trusting that by His shed blood, all of those can be washed clean. 1 John 1:7 gives us the Bible's confirmation: "*The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son (God's Son) cleanses us from all sin*".

The Open Door - Years ago, in London, England, I approached St. James's Palace, wondering if it was open to visitors. In the beautiful foyer, a guard politely asked if he could help me. He said I really couldn't be there. I asked if I might be permitted to take a photo looking down archways leading from room to room; each more lavish than the other. He graciously so permitted, but no more! The experience reminded me of entering the open door to God's holy presence. That's only the beginning. I have spent the many years since, learning daily that there is more and more (room by room) to be grasped and enjoyed about the Person and Glory of Christ and of God, His Father and mine. Ephesians chapter 1, verse 3 and what follows, gives us a summary of what God's palace offers: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*". These great blessings can all be yours, starting today, if you will simply give up your vain efforts to gain God's favour and follow the path to salvation laid out by God in His holy Word. Knock, that is *call upon the Name of the Lord!* (Romans 10:13). Jesus said: "*I am the door, by me if any man enter in, He shall be saved*" (John 10: 9).

"*Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow*" (Isaiah 1:18). "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock...*" (Revelation 3:20). If you knock, He will open. Since He is knocking now, won't you open?

Lorne for Vision 2020 for 2023

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