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The Knocking at the Door

#0531

Study given by W.D. Frazee—March 8, 1963

I'd like to have you turn to Revelation, the third chapter—Revelation, the third chapter. In the class in coming events which we just finished this last week, we've been having a wonderful time looking at the future, through the telescopic eye of Bible prophecy, and as we've studied from week to week, we have finally been led to focus upon this message to the Laodiceans, as found in Revelation 3, beginning with the 14th verse, where we have discovered that this Laodicean message is the key—the key to a number of things that are of great interest to those who want to see the work finished.

You will remember—those of you who have studied in *Early Writings*, 269 and 70, and the other chapters that we've been studying—that it is this Laodicean message *received* that causes the standard to be exalted in the lives of those who receive it, and leads them to pour forth the straight truth.

It is that straight testimony which causes the shaking, and the shaking brings us to the latter rain and the loud cry, the experience of sealing, and the close of probation.

And then, follow in quick succession, the agony of Jacob's trouble, the deliverance at the voice of God, the glorification of the saints, the appearing of the Savior, the grand reunion with the resurrected dead of ages past, the ascension with Jesus and angels to the city of God.

All these things are just ahead and all of them wait the turning of that key, which is the acceptance of this message to the Laodiceans. All of the things which we've just mentioned will follow in their order when we receive in its fullness this message.

Now, it is the 20th verse that I would like to notice especially tonight, but we will read the whole message, beginning with the 14th verse:

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;
These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness,
the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that
thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor
hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I
am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of
nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and
miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to
buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and

white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 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. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”
Revelation 3:14-22.

Now, you notice that Jesus is pictured as standing at the door. What’s He doing? Knocking. What does He want? He wants to come in. And who is He? The King of the universe.

Isn't it an amazing thing, my dear friends, that the One who made all things stands on the porch and waits for one of His creatures to decide whether or not He shall come in. Isn't that amazing?

And, of course, the reason for it is simply this, friends—that love cannot be forced. It cannot be won by authority or pressure. Love, therefore, will wait for the response of love.

O, Jesus, Thou art standing,
Outside the fast-closed door,
In lowly patience waiting,
To pass the threshold o’er...

You will note that these to whom He is sending this message are not the heathen. They are not those who make no profession. It is to the church in Laodicea that this urgent message comes. It is to the individuals in that church that this entreaty is addressed.

Ah, my dear friends, we who bear the name of Christ are here appealed to, and the blessed Savior knocks at our hearts’ door. It is evident that whatever we may have known of Him in fellowship with Him that there is a deeper experience that He longs to share with us.

He says if we will open the door, He will come in and sup with us. You know, as I’ve been meditating on this wonderful picture of this wonderful promise, I’ve been led to think of the wonderful experience that awaits those who do what He has invited us to do here.

And I would like briefly tonight to notice how that what He does for us and with us here we are to share the counterpart of with Him through the ages of eternity. On the other hand, if as He stands at the door and knocks—the door of our heart—we fail to respond, there is coming just ahead a little while for us a failure of response on the other side that will be an eternal loss.

Let us note the different expressions.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock...” Revelation 3:20.

Whose door? Our door. Who’s knocking? Jesus is knocking. But ah, in Luke 13:25, we read of another time, another door, another knock. Those who have failed to answer the knock of Jesus—those for whom and to whom He has knocked in vain—they will someday knock, and those who never opened their door to their Lord will find their Lord’s door closed to them.

“When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are”
Luke 13:25.

Ah, what a sad picture, friends. Jesus knocking at the door here in this world, but the door remains closed. See the counterpart? Men and women knocking at the door of heaven, but again, the door is closed. The only way we can know the open door there is to experience the open door here.

Now, you notice that we are not only to hear His knock, but we are to invite Him in. Revelation 3:20:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door...” Revelation 3:20.

Not enough to hear the voice. We’re to do what? Open the door. You know, it’s wonderful to feel the welcome of someone opening the door and saying, Why, come right in. Don’t we like that? Jesus likes it, friend. He’s very courteous. He comes only where He’s invited and stays only where He’s wanted.

And how nice it is, as we hear that knock, to say, as we open the door, Why, yes, Lord, come right in—come right in. But there’s a counterpart to that. In Matthew 25:34, He tells us what it is. There’s coming a day when the One to whom we have said, Come in, is going to say to us:

“...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” Matthew 25:34.

And the One to whom we have opened the door will open for us the pearly gates of the jasper city, with its golden streets. Oh, friends, think of it. We open this little door of our tiny hearts, and He opens for us the gates of the New Jerusalem, that beautiful city. He comes in with us, that we soon may come in with Him.

Now, He’s not only wanting to come in, but He wants to sit down with us. I like the way the New English Bible translates this Revelation 3:20:

**"I will come in and sit down to supper with him"
Revelation 3:20 (New English Bible).**

You know, this is the rushed age—the age of hurry and flurry and worry that go with it. Many people today don't even have time to eat, scarcely—eat on the run.

I was in the airport in Chicago the other day. There, I saw dozens of people just standing up to eat. But that isn't the picture here in this verse. No. It's a picture, not of rush, but of time, not of noise, but of quietness, not of hurry, but of fellowship.

"...if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will [sit down] with him..." Revelation 3:20.

You know, friends, if we'll open the door and let Him in and let Him sit down with us here, He's going to give us the precious privilege soon of sitting down with Him in the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:37:

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" Luke 12:37.

Yes, He sits down with us here, and we shall sit down with Him up there. What a fellowship. But He not only sits down with us, He's going to eat with us. The scripture says:

"...I will come in to him, and will sup with him..."
Revelation 3:20.

Another translation says, I will dine with Him.

The thought is He sits down to a meal, not a snack.

"...I will [sit down with him, and] will sup with him"
Revelation 3:20.

You remember that when Christ left His church, He left with it, as a token of His fellowship and presence, the breaking of bread, as the perpetual symbol of the tie between Him and each believer—the tie between Him and the church.

And from time to time, as we gather at the table of the Lord, we sense His unseen presence as we sit and sup the Lord's supper—the Lord's supper. But that sacramental meal of which we partake from time to time is meant to teach us that we may have our Lord eat with us every day.

He intends that the family board shall become as the table of the Lord and every meal a sacrament. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing, friends, to think of this in a very literal way.

Someone was telling me about a family that had the custom of leaving a seat for Jesus at the table. I don't know that we would all want to do it just that way, but isn't it wonderful if, some way or another, we can cultivate the sense of His presence as we sit down and eat.

You know, that's one of the reasons that we bow our heads and ask the blessing before we partake. Isn't that right? Yes. But oh, what the sense of His presence would do in bringing joy into the mealtime and unselfishness.

We certainly couldn't quarrel, if we sensed *His* presence at the table, could we, nor complain nor murmur. There are many things that would be banished, shall I say, automatically, if we just think of Jesus at the table with us, eating with us, and oh, what joy His presence brings.

You know, modern scientific research has demonstrated that the state of a man's thinking—his emotions—that all that has a lot to do with the way he digests his food. You can be so anxious that your food won't hurt you that it does hurt you.

I can think of nothing that will banish care and worry like the sense of the presence of Christ. What do you say? So, let us in a very literal way open the door and let Jesus in, and invite Him to sit down and eat with us. What do you say, friends? And oh, the counterpart of it is, that someday soon we shall eat with Him.

Revelation, the 19th chapter, and the 9th verse:

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...”
Revelation 19:9.

Yes, He eats with us here. We eat with Him there. He shares with us our humble fare. We share with Him the banqueting house—the marriage supper. What a wonderful, wonderful privilege. No wonder the prophet heard the word:

“...Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...” Revelation 19:9.

Will you read that Revelation 3:20 with me again, now. Together:

“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” Revelation 3:20.

He's coming not for a brief visit. He's coming to live with us. As it is written:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...”
Ephesians 3:17.

We share our home with Him. He's going to share His home with us—yes, His throne—for the next verse says:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne...” Revelation 3:21.

Is it really true that here is somebody that loves you so much that He wants you with Him all the time? That’s the secret of the whole matter, dear friends. Boys and girls, your father and mother love you, but here’s somebody that loves you so much more than they ever can.

Young people, some of you have been disappointed in finding in human hearts—teachers, parents, others—you’ve been disappointed in finding in their human hearts a failure to fully understand your needs, your longings, but here is One who fully understands.

And those of you who are older, who have met with some of the disillusionments, the frustrations that life may bring—oh, here is One who longs to satisfy every longing. And may I say, that that is the only way to satisfy *His* longing.

Will you notice those two little words at the close of the 20th verse, and see how they are repeated in the 21st verse. What are they? With me—with me. That’s the key to the whole matter.

Why does He come here to Laodicea and knock? Ah, because He says to each of us, I want to be with you so that you can be with Me. I love you, I love you. I want you to be happy, and I have that which will make you happy. I have love. And, if you will let me in, I will share with you here and you shall share with Me, even to sitting with Me on My throne.

Ah, dear ones, what does it mean? Why, it means this to me—that never will my Lord have to say to me, Well, now, I have something important to attend to. You just wait here and I’ll be back by and by. No, no. Wherever He goes, I shall go with Him. He wants that fellowship. Nothing less than that can satisfy Him, and I know it will abundantly satisfy me.

“...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth...” Revelation 14:4.

Ah, friends, this is love, and thank God, we do not have to wait till the dawning of the eternal morning. Right now, here in this world, we can have that fellowship. In our home, we can have a fellowship which we shall share with Him in His home through the eternal ages.

In that beautiful Song of Solomon—that beautiful song of love, both human and divine—we have the background of the message which I have studied with you tonight. In the fifth chapter of that song, and the second verse, we read:

“...it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me...” Song of Solomon 5:2.

Who is it that’s knocking? Ah, my beloved—my beloved is knocking:

“...saying, Open to me...” Song of Solomon 5:2.

The One who loves you more than anybody else in this world ever could—
ever will—that One is the One who is knocking.

“...it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open
to me...” Song of Solomon 5:2.

Oh, I trust that every heart will open just now, that we may enter in as never
before into this sweet and blessed fellowship. Whatever we have known of this
fellowship in the past, we can have more tonight, my friends.

In this same Song of Solomon, the second chapter, verses 3 and 4, the
response of the loving heart that accepts the Savior’s invitation is:

“...I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his
fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the
banqueting house, and his banner over me was love” Song
of Solomon 2:3-4.

Yes, this is sweet fruit, friends, and a sweet fellowship. Why not have it?
Why not have it now, because He says:

“...I stand at the door, and knock...” Revelation 3:20.

“...it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open
to me...” Song of Solomon 5:2.

I tell you this, friends. If we may really experience this fellowship, what other
people do or fail to do will not hurt us so much, it’ll not worry us so much. If we see
others that fail to give us what might be our due, we’ll feel sorry for them but not feel
so sorry for ourselves, for we shall know that whatever the world neglects to bestow,
Christ Himself makes up with the best of favors. What a fellowship, what a joy
divine.

“I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit
was sweet to my taste” Song of Solomon 2:3.

Oh, I long for everyone to enter in. Dear ones, it is your privilege, it is your
heritage. It’s been bought with the precious blood, for will you look at that hand that
knocks. What do you see in it? Ah, you see scars. The marks of Calvary remain in
that hand that knocks at the door of your heart.

That means that He loves you so much that He would rather die than be
without you. It means that He loves you so much that He will suffer the death of the
cross that you may be restored to fellowship with Him.

O, Jesus, Thou art knocking,
And lo, that hand is scarred.

Let's look upon that nail-pierced hand, my friends, and let Him use that hand to lay upon us in benediction, rather than simply use it knocking, knocking, knocking.

And now, will you look at that opening expression:

"Behold, I stand at the door..." Revelation 3:20.

The thought in the original is, I'm here and I have *been* here, and I'm going to stay right here. That's the thought—I stand at the door. How long has He been standing at your door? Well, if you'll tell me how old you are, I'll tell you how long He's been standing. Wonderful patience, prompted by wonderful love.

And I'll tell you this, dear ones. If it would do any good, He'd stand there a thousand years and wait, hoping that the door might open. But in these hearts of ours, long before a thousand years might pass away, the choice becomes set and fixed, one way or the other.

A whole eternity would not be long enough to open the door that remains closed in this earth life. That's the reason—the only reason—that there is no second probation—no second chance in some future sphere. Our only hope, our only chance, of opening the door is in this life now. But, as long as that chance remains, *He* remains, not in some far-off sphere, but at the door of our hearts. Oh, wonderful love—wonderful love.

Suppose you could see Him tonight. Picture yourself at home, in your room, and there's a knock at the door. You think, Why who's there? Who's there? And suppose there's some window or some way that you can look and see who's knocking, and you say, Oh, Jesus—Jesus—knocking at the door. What shall I do?

Ah, friends, I suppose that we ought to frankly face it. The reason so few let Him in is they're afraid of what He might do if He came in. Yes. I suppose we ought to face it. The reason so few let Him in is they're afraid of what He might do if He were to come in.

Come now, and let us be very honest, friends, in these moments of heart searching. If He comes in, He must come in to reign, to rule, to guide, to direct, and we must welcome Him. Shall we invite Him in? And shall we let Him guide us into a tour of our hearts and homes such as we have never yet entered into fully?

Shall we make it very literal, very practical? Would it be a good thing, as we go home tonight, tomorrow, to look things over with Jesus? Might it be well to look at the pictures on the wall and say, very literally, Dear Jesus, do these pictures please you? If they don't, down they're going to come.

Would it be well to invite Jesus, not only inside the door, but take Him with us to the bookshelves and say, Dear Jesus, would you please look over these books with me. If there's anything here that doesn't please you, we'll get rid of it, for we want you to be happy.

Would it be a good thing to take Jesus with us to the piano or other musical instrument and look over the music? Perhaps, the records with the record player, or the tape recordings or the other methods that bring music into the home?

Ah, friends, it's a wonderful thing to sense the fellowship of Jesus in such a practical way that we want only around the place that which we know will please Him and bring joy to His heart.

We were reading here that He wants to sup with us. I wonder, friends, if there's anything in your refrigerator that you wouldn't put on the table if Jesus were coming to eat with you. I wonder if there's anything in the cupboard, in the pantry, that you just wouldn't bring out if He were the guest.

But to invite Him in, in the sense in which we're studying tonight, means that you're going to have Him not merely as an occasional visitor. He's to make His home with you.

Wouldn't it be well, very literally, to clean out the cupboard, friends, to clean out the refrigerator, and be sure that everything on our tables or that could get to our tables is what Jesus would feel very happy to join us in eating.

I wonder if it would be well to invite Jesus to go with us into the bedroom and look over our wardrobes, or is He interested in what we wear? Oh, yes. If you'll study this Laodicean message, you'll see He's *very* interested in what we wear.

He tells us frankly here that some people think they're clothed, and He says they're not clothed at all. It's a difference of opinion. Whose opinion are you going to take? Well, it depends on whether He's outside the door or inside the door.

Yes, it would be a wonderful thing, item by item, to just hold up that dress or that suit, that tie or that ribbon, those shoes, and say, Jesus, do you like these? Do you like these? I'm inviting you in, and there's just one thing I want and that's to please you. Is that what it means to open the door? That's right.

And, as I said, the reason so few do it is because they're afraid of what He might do. It would be a shame to let something in the refrigerator or something in the wardrobe or something on the library table keep out the heavenly guest, wouldn't it, friends? Wouldn't it?

Ah, yes. How cheap men sell the greatest opportunity of life. I pray that every one of us tonight shall with joy open the door—with joy open the door—with all that it means—that from henceforth we shall live but for one thing—to make Him happy who lives but for one thing—to make us happy.

Brother Boyken and Brother Anderson are going to sing for me a message that the Lord brought to my heart the other night. It's a song that I haven't heard for many, many years, and I'm sure it was because we were meditating on these themes that this sweet song was brought back from the memories of the past.

Come, brethren, and sing the Savior's invitation.

[Special music—If You Could See Christ Standing Here Tonight.]

Yes, He is standing here, friends, and what shall we say? Ah, there's just one response, isn't there, but it must be deep and full, with all the heart.

If there's somebody here that tonight, as you have heard Jesus call, you recognize that there's something that's standing between you and Him. You know, that's what the door is, friends. It's whatever is standing between you and your Lord. Did you know that? Isn't that what a door is? If He's on that side and I'm on this side and the door's in between, the door is what's standing between us. And to open the door means to give that up to Him.

And if tonight, the Holy Spirit has spoken to your heart, and you recognize that there's something that, as you came into this meeting—maybe you knew it then, maybe you didn't, but you know it now—you recognize that as you came into this meeting, there was something standing between you and that close fellowship with your Lord—something very definite—it might be more than one thing, but even one thing can do it—and tonight, you want to open that door—I'd like to invite you to just quietly stand right where you are, that we may pray for you, and that Jesus may keep His word and enter the heart which you open.

Just with bowed heads, speak to Jesus. Forget about this audience and us, and be alone with that One whose wounded hand had knocked at your heart's door. And just now, as you quietly stand here, open that door wide—wide. Give Him everything. Make Him glad, as you open the door.

[Singing—You Must Open the Door.]

How glad Jesus is for each opened door—each opened heart. How glad it makes Him that His journey is not in vain. He came all the way from the throne to the manger and on to Calvary that these hearts' doors might be opened to His loving presence.

[Singing—You Must Open the Door.]

How patiently He has waited for some of us. Wonderful love, wonderful patience.

Dear children—you dear boys and girls—if Christ knocks at the door of your heart tonight, if there's been something in the way of disobedience that has been the door standing between you and sweet fellowship with your Lord, if there's been a failure to cooperate at home or in the school or anywhere, why not open the door and let Jesus in.

I know it's a struggle, but ah, the struggle is in the opening of the door. How sweet it is when the door is opened and Jesus comes in. And even if, in the past, we've known this fellowship and we've lost it, the way to renew it is to open the door again. Isn't it? That's right. That's the way to do it.

And no matter how many times we've invited Him in and then shut Him out, He hasn't gone off and left us. He still says:

"...I stand at the door, and knock..." Revelation 3:20.

Wonderful love—wonderful love.

[Singing—You Must Open the Door.]

If we open the door, He comes in. There's no question about it. He says so. He cannot fail. If He's come all the way from heaven to earth to come in, if you open the door you cannot doubt that He'll do it. It is for *that* that He made the journey. It is for *that* that He died and rose again, and lives and pleads. It's all for that one purpose of entering the door of your heart.

So, as you open it, believe with all your soul and thank Him. Say, Oh, dear Lord, I thank Thee for Jesus. I thank Thee for coming in. I thank Thee for taking away the thing that has hindered. I thank Thee for accepting me. I thank Thee for the joy of the Lord for every one.

You dear children—how God loves you. You young people—how thankful God is to have you in your youth give your hearts to Him. And the older ones—every one so precious to the Lord.

Is there one more that here tonight has heard that call—that knock—and right now says, Yes, Lord, this means me, and I respond. I will. Right where I am, I'll stand, and by standing I open the door.

Loving Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts for Thy presence in this vesper hour, and we give Thee praise and glory that Thou hast spoken to our hearts and that Thou hast helped us to respond. We believe Thou hast entered the heart of each one that has opened the door just now, and we thank Thee for the victories.

And now, as we enter into this little after meeting, tarry with us as we tarry with Thee, and give us the richer gift, as we seek the larger blessing. Dismiss this congregation with Thy benediction, and may all who ought to stay, stay, and may those who go, go to share with others the blessed news that Jesus is at the door, and only waits the invitation to come in and share with us His life forevermore. Amen.

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