

## The Door

The word "**door**" has one definition, but that definition may be applied in a variety of ways. Normally when we heard the word "**door**" we think of something on hinges that swings open or closed, and this fits with the dictionary that a door is "a movable, usually solid, barrier for opening and closing an entranceway, cupboard, cabinet, or the like, commonly turning on hinges or sliding in grooves." Wherever there is a door there is an opening and, doors being inanimate objects (meaning not alive), they cannot function on their own; someone or something must operate them.

Often when we talk we use certain words as a figure of speech in order to make a point, such as a "door of opportunity." We know that an opportunity does not have a door but, by saying a "door of opportunity" we are saying that an opportunity was open to us.

In the Bible, God's Word, there are many references to a door, or an opening as it were. Some of these are a literal door and others are a figure of speech that is used to make a point. In the Gospel of John, chapter 10, Jesus was talking and explain that He was **THE** good shepherd and that He was **THE DOOR**, that is, **THE OPENING** for salvation. Jesus explains that there are/were many different shepherds claiming to be the saviour but, He alone is **THE** true Saviour. This is what is meant when we read, "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am **the door** {emphasis added} of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am **the door** {emphasis added}: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." {John 10:7-9} In another chapter we read, "Jesus saith unto him, I am **the way** {emphasis added}, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." {John 14:6} "**The way**" means **the** route; it can also be seen as **the** opening to the Father.

You see my friend, God's Word, the Bible, clearly teaches us that there is only **one way** to Heaven, **one way** to God the Father, **one way** of salvation, and that is through **the person** of Jesus Christ. Why does a person need to be saved? Because we are all sinners by birth and the deeds or acts that we do. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:23} "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" {Romans 5:12} That one man was Adam in the Garden of Eden and the "all men" includes every mortal being born into this world; all men, women, boys, and girls. Without being "saved" or born again, there is no way a person will ever go to Heaven. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." {John 3:3} In the book of Revelation {last book in the Bible}, Chapter 21 gives a little insight into Heaven and how good it is. Then we read, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." {Revelation 21:27} The people who are "written in the Lamb's book of life" are those who have been saved {born again}.

How do people get saved? By repenting of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, they trust Him as personal Saviour. By the "shed blood of Jesus Christ" it means to trust what He did on the Cross of Calvary when He shed His innocent blood and died on our behalf as the full payment for our sin debt. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18} "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:14-16} Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." {Luke 13:3} Repentance is an absolute prerequisite for salvation as is believing in the Cross work of Jesus Christ. The sin debt has been paid and, as the Bible says, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:12}

If you repent of your sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour, can you know for sure, without a doubt, that you are saved? Consider this, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13}

Friend, will you open the door of your heart and allow Jesus Christ to come in? He cannot open your heart's door for you; this is something that you and you alone must do. "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} For the sake of your eternal soul, I plead with you to do so - **TODAY!**

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017