

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: What the Spirit Saith to the Churches  
Sermon #9 Title: Christ with Us  
Sermon #9 Text: (Revelation 3:20-22)

We close our series today, only because we have run out of letters to these churches. Our Lord has addressed 7 specific churches, with seven specific circumstances, and given instructions to each, but for all to hear.

- We've been listening to Him give someone else directions that He expects us to heed as well.

In our text today, we are reading His final words, to the Final church that He spoke to.

- As we said last week, looking at the church of Laodicea, we were quite frankly looking at the first Baptist church of the lost.
- The Lord had saved His harshest words for the worst of those churches, the last of those churches.
- After His blunt instructions in verse 18 and 19, He closes His dictation to them, with information that immediately applied to them, but perpetually continues to this day.

\*Note – In other words, this is not only in their context, but it is a continuing context even to our circumstance at this hour and moment.

- As He closes this section of the book, He leaves us with three predominant points:

I. The Lord's Stated Condition – "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

\*Note – He will never move an inch or compromise a second on His requirement for repentance.

\*Note – If Laodicea, or any church, or any one ever got the idea that the Christ's call to repentance, used to be His plea, - or that Christ said it, and then somehow softened over time, the Lord clears that up right here!

#### **A. His Demand for Attention – "Behold"**

\*note – We do not make too much of this word, nor should we make too little.

1.) "idoo" – is the Greek word, and it is sharp call for your undivided attention!

- It is a command to have all of your faculties come into focus . . .

\*Note – In the immediate sense of the context the Lord in a proverbial way, "raised His voice" to emphasize to the Laodiceans that He means business!

- I don't know if this implying that they were not paying attention with their lives, but He certainly calls them to.

- According to the language doctors in the Dictionary of Bible languages, this word means, or speaks of an exclamation - "suddenly, now; a marker used to liven up a Hebrew style narrative, to change a scene, to emphasize an idea, to call attention to a detail."

#### **B. The Door of Division – "I stand at the door"**

\*Note – What is Jesus speaking of when He uses the metaphor of a closed door?

- The word that John penned on the paper was the word "thoo-rah". It is the word for an entrance.

- There are two elementary things the scripture tells us by the fact that Jesus is knocking . . .

- #1 – It is a closed entrance

## #2 – It is closed to Jesus

- A closed entrance is not hard to understand – furthermore a closed entrance to Jesus is not hard to understand
- Whatever Jesus is referring to, He is referring to an “entrance that He is willfully denied!”
- He is speaking of something that He is denied access to on purpose.  
(This is speaking of someone who IS SAYING, No to Christ)  
Who?

### 1.) Specifically the Lost Church

- a.) In the immediate context of the scripture this part of the Lord’s letter is still addressing the Laodicean assembly.

\*Note – As we said last week, this was originally the Lord’s church that had been hijacked by lost people. – “Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” (vs 17)

- What once was the Lord’s church, had become “church of the Laodiceans” – and Jesus was out. – They used His name in Religion, but said No to him as LORD.

- They had willfully closed the door, or kept the door closed on Jesus!

(You may have heard the story about when Charles Stanley first began as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Atlanta – he tells about a committee meeting that he first attended, and men began discussing a particular question when he said, “First thing we do is pray about this.” – One of the men rather sharply and bluntly said to him, “This is business, you leave that out of this.”)

- Anytime, and anywhere you find a church that wants the Name Christian, but has no interest in being told by Jesus what to do or how to do it, you have a Laodicean church.

- Now that being said, the implication here is that Jesus said directly to that church, you are keeping the door closed to me.

## 2.) Generally the Lost Man

\*Note – Now once we get to the end of the chapter, verse 22 says what Jesus said at the end of every letter – “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.”

- The Spirit said to that church, you are keeping the door closed to me.

- that same message is given to “he that has an ear”

- You have closed the door to me!

- You are saying NO to me.

\*Note – Now this may have been a subtle, or even not so subtle message to unbelieving Jews that might be listening in. In Luke 13:34 – The physician records that one day as Jesus was walking he paused and looked over the city of Jerusalem and said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!”

John wrote in his gospel in John 1:11 – “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

- the closed door, whether it be spoken to the lost church, or whether it is spoken to lost Israel, or whether it is spoken to lost men, is the straightforward message that YOU ARE SAYING NO to Me; I am not saying NO to you!

**C. His Fixed Position**– “I stand and knock”

1.) Literally, I am taking my stand, and have taken my stance at the door.

- He’s not moving!

\*Note – This in the active tense, I stand and am standing, I knock and am knocking. –

\*Note – Now don't get the idea that like an unwanted visitor if you ignore the doorbell He'll go away and forget all about it. – Yes there is a day He will stop knocking – but He won't go away and forget all about it.

Other than here, the scripture gives us two pictures of Jesus "at the door."

Luke 12:32-35 – Jesus is speaking to all of His disciples assuring them of His return, and what their attitude is to be towards Him in the meantime. "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately."

- To the disciple there is to be an attitude of eager anticipation always desiring the entrance of the Lord.

- James gives us the same picture, but with Jesus in a different mood . . .

James 5:8-9 – "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

\*Note – In one scene the Bible tells us Jesus is at the door desiring to come in in grace and kindness and fellowship. – In the other scene, Jesus is at the door as Judge, ready to burst in and takeover like a Ruler.

(When we open the door, he comes in to rescue –When He opens the door, He comes in as Judge)

\*Note – Now back to the context of the letter, the Lord reminds the Laodiceans that He is not going away. – He desires to be welcomed in for grace, before He decides to barge in and come to Judge.

II. The Lord's Standing Position – "...if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me." –

\*Note – Now as we said, - He wants to enter in for the purpose of rescue, redemption and relief – His desire as the Savior is to Save! His duty as the Judge is to Judge!

- But His Personal position is a standing invitation -

**A. He Beckons Men to Surrender** – "if any man hear my voice . . ."

1.) the word for hear is not merely the transmission of words, it contains that – but it is deeper and means to Listen to my voice . . .

\*Note – How then do I hear the voice of Jesus?

- He said, "The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life..."

\*Note the voice of Jesus is to the Bible what color is to a picture . . .

- You can get the gist of the Word when you read what is written – you can get the power of the Word when you hear what the written is saying.

- The Voice of Jesus is behind the Words on the page.

– Many people never go past the words to hear the voice.

\*Note – it is the difference in hearing what is said, and listening to what He is Saying! –

- Now in the immediate context the Laodiceans had no interest in Hearing what the Word was saying . . .

- But Jesus said, "If any of you in this assembly will be willing to Listen, I will come in . . ."

\*Note – Don't miss the beauty of that . . . Jesus essentially said, "if ONE of you will hear what I'm saying, then I will enter in."

2.) – "and open the door"

\*Note - To open the door is an act of willing faith.

a.) It is to put down your unwillingness..

b.) It is to stop saying No . . .

\*Note – (Now let me say this – You cannot open your heart if you are unwilling to listen.)

- That's why these two phrases are tied together – you cannot do one without the other . . .

- The listening of the ears, is a simultaneous act of the opening of the heart . . .

**B. His Blessing to Those Who Do** – "I will come into him . . ."

\*Note – This is the moment that the Christmas message bursts alive into the reality of men . . . – Jesus in union with and possession of the soul!

1.) In the immediate context, the Laodicean assembly needed to be Saved – and the difference in being Saved, and being Lost is Christ In you, or Christ Not in you.

\*Note – Now mind you, the Lord is speaking to an assembly of people that Identify themselves as Christians, yet He said . . . I am not in you, but I will come into you . . . You are still Lost, but I am still Lord, and I will still come into you.

Colossians 1:27 – which was read in this Assembly some 30 year prior – the Apostle Paul revealed to them what had been the a mysterious glory about Salvation but was not mysterious

any longer – "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"

Christ in you is Salvation

Christ not in you, is nothing more than religion wrapped up in the dying body of a doomed sinner.

What is it that made Christ's birth such good news? – The Angel Gabriel made it plain in Matthew 1:21-24 – "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

\*Note – Now all of that being said, the Laodiceans could never have actually celebrated what we call Christmas, because God was Not with Them!

- Only with Christ in us can we sing the songs of Emmanuel . . .

- Only with Christ in us can we actually sing, God with Us!

\*Note – Now as we speak in this moment – the Lord's Position is still the same. – There will be a time that it won't be, but it is right now.

- "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into to him . . ."

III. The Lord's Ultimate Promise –

\*Note – Now finish the rest of the verse – this promise begins in the moment, and never ends throughout eternity.

- "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

These promises are literal and forever. . . and after death....

**A. Eternal Fellowship with Jesus** – "will sup with him, and he with me."

1.) the word here for sup is to dine, and it speaks of the primary meal – and it was the meal that was the center of family fellowship.

\*Note – Now again, Don't miss this . . . Here is the ultimate glory of heaven . . . JESUS.

- He is the prize of the saved –

- The glory of glories is not merely a place it is that Person! (Now if you want the place, but not the Person, you'll have neither!)

(The prevailing thought of the Christian culture is 1.) How not to go to hell, and how to go to heaven –

- The Biblical message of the gospel is HOW to have union with Jesus Christ who IS our Salvation!)

- This is the greatest all of desires, and the highest of all honors, to know and be known by the Lord Jesus, and to have a place at His feast, in His place, In His house!

**B. Eternal Kingship with Him** – "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."

\*Note – Now there are two thrones 1 to come and 1 that always is. 1.) One to come is on earth during Christ's millennial reign. In which He will politically, legally, righteously, and authoritatively, govern this planet as the King of the nation of Israel.

- And all of those who have "overcome" will serve with Him, over this world in righteousness.

- This world will be all that it could have been had the world welcomed Jesus in the first place.

- Morally

- Righteously

- Spiritually

- Economically

- Environmentally

- Legally

- Who are those that overcome? – Those who BY Faith, open the door and let Him come in.

1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4 – "This is the victory that overcometh the world; even our faith."

- Those who surrender to His ruling, will be placed alongside Him in elevated privilege.

\*Note – Notice the illustration that Jesus uses – "even as, or in the same way, that I am set down with my Father in His throne."

- As Jesus is seated at the Right hand of the Father on high, the Saved will be seated at the Right hand of Christ on earth!

- The Right hand was the hand of favor –

Now Jesus has finished all of His letters, signed, sealed and delivered.

**Conclusion:** "Hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

What He wrote for them, was to be heard by us! This is yesterday's newspaper with tomorrows headlines! – It is the ever-present opportunity for man . . . until it no longer is!

Christ in you, the Hope of Glory!