

## SEVEN BIBLE DOORS

One of the most often used metaphors in the Bible is that of a door. A door is a way of access or egress. It may also symbolize comfort or protection, opportunity or hope, confinement or imprisonment.

### The Door of the Lord's Tomb

The door of the tomb of Christ is a most important Bible door. After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea was given the body *“and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed”* (Matt. 27:59-60). To keep that door closed, and the body of Jesus safely inside, Pilate gave the Jews a Roman guard to seal and watch the tomb. Everything was done which the Jews and Romans could do to keep that door closed and the body of Christ confined. But in that case the powers of earth and Hades were arrayed against the power of Heaven. And it was time for God to reveal to mankind that the gates of death could not hold the Son of God (Acts 2:24).

After the Sabbath ended, *“There was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone, from the door, and sat upon it”* (Matt. 28:2). Then to the women who came early on the first day of the week, the angel said; *“Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, even as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay”* (Matt. 28:26).

That day the door of His tomb was opened forever. By opening that door, God declared Jesus to be *“the Son of God with power,”* and gave the world reason to rejoice greatly (Rom. 1:4). By His resurrection, Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim. 1:10). Let us continue to rejoice that the door of His tomb is open. It is a door of victory, power, and undying hope to believers.

### Christ, the Door of God's Sheepfold

The figure of a door to indicate man's access to the eternal blessings of the gospel was used by Jesus Himself as the door of God's sheepfold. Christ is the door of salvation. He said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep”* (Jn. 10:1-2). Jesus pictured Himself as the good shepherd who enters the sheepfold properly by the door, calls “His own sheep by name,” leads them out and provides for them. He enlarged upon this, saying, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep...by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,*

*and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture”* (Jn. 10:7-9). Jesus is the door through which the lost may enter the divine pasture, but to pass through that door there are divine conditions to be met.

About six months before He died, Jesus said to the apostles, *“I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”* (Matt. 16:19; cf. Jn. 20:21-23). Keys indicate authority. Authority to “bind” and “loose” meant authority to announce the conditions of forgiveness bound in heaven by which men are loosed of sin and enter the door into God's kingdom. In Acts 2 is recorded the apostles' use of the keys to unlock the door of salvation. First, they preached “Jesus of Nazareth,” insisting that those who heard “know assuredly” that God had made Jesus both Lord and Christ. Those who believed asked what they must do, and were told, *“repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins”* (Acts 2:41,47). Since then the door of salvation has been open to all that desire to be loosed from sin. There is no other door into divine pasture (Acts 4:12).

### The Door of Our Hearts

The Bible pictures Christ standing at the door of our hearts, saying, *“As many as I love, I reprove 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”* (Rev. 3:19-20). Christ is near every heart (Phil. 4:5). He desires to enter, but we, by faith, must open our hearts to receive Him. Christ does not force Himself into any heart against our wills. Many hearts are closed to Jesus today; many because they will not listen to His voice and many more because the word of Christ has not been taken to them.

### A Door of Faith Unto the Gentiles

At first, only Jesus entered the door of Christ, but soon that door was opened to all. The Good Shepherd has said, *“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd”* (Jn. 10:16). We learn in Acts 14:27, that when Paul and Barnabas *“were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all things that God had done with them, and that He had opened a door of faith unto the Gentiles.”* Thus, at the close of Paul's first preaching journey, his faithful mission to the Gentiles was called “a door of faith” unto them. This is God's way of expressing the truth that both Jew and Gentile now have equal access to the faith that saves. “There is no distinction” (Rom. 10:12). That door of faith is still open to every person of every nation who will accept the terms

of pardon bound on earth by the apostles of the Lord Jesus (Acts 10:34-35).

### Doors of Opportunity

Paul used the figure of a door to describe opportunities for gospel service. He said, *“But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost; for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries”* (1 Cor. 16:8-9). Later he said, *“Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ, and when a door was opened unto me in the Lord, I had no relief for my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother”* (2 Cor. 2:12). In his letter to the saints at Colossae, Paul said, *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds”* (Col. 4:2-3). To show that God gives us such doors of opportunity, John was directed to write, *“Behold, I have set before thee a door opened, which none can shut”* (Rev. 3:8). Let us use our God-given doors of opportunity for gospel service, and let us pray that He will increase the number of such doors “while it is day.”

### “Keep the Door of My Lips”

The Psalmist said in an evening prayer, *“Set a watch O Jehovah, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips”* (Ps. 141:3). Here is divine insight into one of man's oldest problems: the need for guarding our speech. God has taught us the duty of bridling the tongue, yet sins of the tongue are among the most damaging sins of each generation. The power of speech is so great that the Bible abounds with admonition for us to guard it carefully and use it wisely. Yet murmuring and profanity, scornful and smutty speech is among the great curses of our time. Many need to pray with the Psalmist, *“Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth: keep the door of my lips.”* The consequences of idle and hurtful speech are far reaching (Matt. 12:36-37). Let each one pray, *“let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer”* (Ps. 19:14). The door of our lips must be tightly locked against evil. Let us make our tongues blessings not curses.

### The Door of Heaven

In the parable of the virgins, Jesus teaches that the door of heaven will be shut to all who are unprepared when the holy Bridegroom comes to receive His bride, the church (Matt. 25:1-13; cf. Rev. 21).

***Continued on outer page...***

Are you prepared to meet Him, should He come today? If not, Jesus urges you to obtain plenty of oil, trim your lamp, and keep it burning. "Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour" (Matt. 25:13). If the door of heaven is closed to you, because your lamp has gone out when Jesus comes, it would be better for you never to have been born. So, while time is yours and mercy lingers, open your heart to Christ, obey His gospel without delay, and be constant in His service until He comes.

*"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."* (Rev. 3:20 KJV)

**Charles Crouch** from *Sapulpa Bulletin*

## BIRTHDAY

Natalie Parish, 11-22.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Stan Anderson (PM); Millie Robertson (PM).

**Wednesday:** Janice Carter; Steve and Debbie Schleif.

Sandra Campbell, Julia Thrasher's sister, was dismissed from the hospital and is recovering at home. Shauna Heck completed her first round of chemotherapy on Friday and sends her request for our prayers.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Cleo Stone was vacationing in Arkansas with his son Steve the last couple of weeks. Leah D. Thrasher was in Florida during last week. Chris Edwards was in Chicago on business last week.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 33; Wednesday PM, 31.

# Those To Serve

November 22, 2009

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Schleif**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Stanley Anderson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter**  
**ASSIST..... Joel Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... Steven Schleif**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Chris Edwards**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter**

### WEDNESDAY 25th

**SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**INVITATION ..... Joel Nelson**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

**Phone: (913) 764-2325**

**E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

**[www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)**

**[www.oabs.org/olathe.asp](http://www.oabs.org/olathe.asp)**