LOREN 7
8-6-00
3-2-03
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DOORS

I.) INTRODUCTION:

A.) Though there are five Hebrew words used in the Old Testament which are translated "door", there is only one Greek word in the New Testament - THURA.

B.) THURA is often used, both in a literal and metaphorical sense.

II.) USES OF THE TERM:

A.) DOOR It is used to symbolize privacy; a lack of pretension.

1.) Matt 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

a.) Not to do it for show - it is between you and God.

B.) DOOR It is used to symbolize the process of shutting evil out of our lives.

1.) Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

a) Here the word door is a defense against Satan.

C.) DOOR It is used to symbolize the opportunity for Christian service.

1.) Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name -

a) If we do what the Lord wants, then the door will remain open.

2.) I Cor 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

a.) The adversaries can be whatever the devil puts against us.

b.) The Lord has promised to keep the door open, if we keep His Word, and honor His name, and have little strength of our own on which to rely.

3.) If a Christian never sees an "open door" it is because he never looks. And if he is not looking is he a Christian?

D.) DOOR It is used to symbolize obedience to the Gospel.

a) Jn 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in ~~out~~ and out, and find pasture.

a.) Sheep to pasture - we are the sheeps.

b.) Matt 25:10 and while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

c.) Rev 3:20 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.

1.) When we obey the Gospel, we open the door to security.

a.) Security is a basic need of human nature.

1.) Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

a.) Christ offers an open door to all the real security there is.

b.) "Hide me, O my Saviour, hide me, till the storm of life is past."

2.) When we ~~do~~ obey the Gospel, we open the door to new interests.

a.) Gal 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

1.) The unredeemed person is interested in self; the redeemed one is interested in others.

2.) When we become interested in things other than self, we begin to live! Those who are wrapped up in self loses the joy of this life as well as the life to come.

b.) Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

1.) When we obey the Gospel, we open the door to happiness.

III.) OPENING THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART:

A.) The door of your heart may be difficult to open:

1.) It may be blocked with pride, hurt feelings, prejudices, envy, ~~etc~~, WAY FAMILY BELIEVES.

2.) Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

a.) It is possible to open the door, else He would not knock.

B.) The door of your heart may be difficult to keep open:

1.) Matt 13:7, 22 pg 1028

a.) When touched with the Gospel, one sometimes manages to open the door, but when old temptations return, it closes again.

2.) We often mistake the ~~mere~~ emotional stimulation of a moment for a heart truly geared to Christ.

III.) CONCLUSION:

A.) MK 1:33 And all the city was gathered together at the door.

1.) The people knew that Jesus was inside; they were looking for something worthwhile which they knew was behind the door.

2.) In the same way, we are searching for security and happiness, and are looking in various kinds of doors for these things - drugs, alcohol, sports, entertainment, education, etc.

3.) But the real things we want are behind the ~~door~~ door of the Christian faith.

B.) "Door of my heart I hasten, thee will I open wide."