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**Much Love!**

Pastor Ed

**Title:** Open Heaven

**Text:** Various

- “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were OPENED to him.” (Matthew 3:16a).
- “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and (was praying), the heavens were OPENED.” (Luke 3:21)
- “And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn OPEN and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.” (Mark 1:10)

**Target:** An open heaven is afforded and available to us only IN JESUS NAME.

I. An Open Heaven is Affirmation:

A. The Pre-existence of Jesus: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

B. The Pleasure of Jesus: “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:5)

C. The Purpose of Jesus: “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24)

II. An Open Heaven is Validation:

A. The Way of Jesus is Specific: “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

B. The Way of Jesus is Singular: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

C. The Way of Jesus is Sufficient: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

III. An Open Heaven is an Invitation:

● Hebrews 10:19-20: “...we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way OPENED for us through the curtain, that is, his body.”

● Mark 15:37-38: “...breathed his last, and the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”

A. Jesus is our Mediator: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

B. Jesus is our Advocate: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” (1 John 2:1)

C. Jesus is our Intercessor: “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

**Take Away:** An Open Heaven is before us, so come boldly (Hebrews 10:23) through the door that is IN JESUS NAME! (John 10:9)