

OPEN THE DOOR

The Seventh Letter / May 24, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

- Things may get worse before they get better.
- You are going to make it.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

II. THREE REASONS WE DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

1. *We don't take the effort.*

Revelation 3:15-16 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

A. Lukewarm living is never satisfying.

Revelation 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

B. Distance makes the difference.

James 4:7-8 (NLT) So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

2. *We don't think we need it.*

Revelation 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

- Self-Reliance Is Self-Deception.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

A. We find provision in Jesus.

B. We find forgiveness in Jesus.

- Jesus, our Savior, offers forgiveness to our lives.

C. We find meaning in Jesus.

- You will never be able to see clearly without Jesus.
- Jesus, our Lord, gives meaning to our lives.

D. Everything you need is found in Jesus.

3. We aren't listening for His voice.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. I stand at the door and knock...

A. Distraction is the enemy of opportunity.

B. Hearing without listening is the enemy of relationship.

Revelation 3:22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.