

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
October 21, 2020

"THE OPEN DOOR"



Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

This is the famous door of the Castle Church (Schlosskirche) in Wittenberg Germany. This is not the door that Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" for discussion on the sale of indulgences in the Church to. That door, which was made of wood, is long gone, replaced by this massive iron door which would make it virtually impossible to nail anything to it. Today Luther's 95 Theses are engraved in the iron door for all to read. As we come to the end of October (This Sunday is the final Sunday of the month) we once again prepare to remember and celebrated the Reformation, especially the Lutheran Reformation. There's a difference in the two, as other reformers took the work of Luther and his compatriots and extended their reforms far beyond where the Lutherans landed. It was Luther's believe that anything in the Church that was not contrary to Christ and the Gospel should be kept for the good of the church members. Unnecessary changes were thought to be too upsetting to the spiritual wellbeing of the people. The Reformation centers on Jesus Christ and the Word of God that reveals Him to us along with the salvation that He won for us in the cross and empty tomb. Our battle cry is "Grace Alone,

faith Alone, in Christ alone, Scripture alone, and to God alone be the glory". By the middle ages the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the heresies that entered into the Church through them had crowded out the Gospel, and Christ, changing "Christianity" into a works based religious system, a ticket to hell. The door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg serves as a metaphor for the reopening of the gates of heaven for all to enter into the Kingdom of God by faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ for our salvation. All of this being a free gift of God's amazing grace. Jesus is the door (John 10:7), the only door that His sheep must enter the sheepfold through. All other doors open to eternal damnation and destruction. Jesus is our doorway into heaven. In the verse above from Revelation chapter 3 Jesus not only is the door but He is also inviting us to come through it. Notice that He says, "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me". The key here is in hearing His voice, that is, the Gospel. The sweet Word of God that the Holy Spirit is at work in to empower us by faith to open that door and have fellowship, eternal fellowship, with God. If Jesus were not to knock and speak His Word to us, we would never open the door. It all comes from and through Him, and Him alone. At the beginning of the next chapter of The Book of Revelation, chapter 4 verse 1, John sees a vision of an open doorway into heaven. After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." That door was only open because of Christ. Our sins caused it to be locked and bolted as we were eternally separated from the loving presence of God our Father. But the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ blows that door wide open again for us to enter in, to be reconciled forever to our God and live forever with Him in His Kingdom. God, in Christ Jesus did it all...all for us. The only part in it that we have is in receiving and not rejecting the gift, and even that can only be done through the presence and power of God the Holy Spirit. What's kind of ironic is that this door, on the north side of the Castle Church in Wittenberg is never open for people to enter into the church. For that you have to walk down to the east end and enter there, but don't worry, that's only about 50 or so feet away.