

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

August 27, 2017

"And the Door Was Shut"

by Frank Himmel

These somber words occur near the conclusion of Jesus' parable of the ten virgins. Five who were ready when the bridegroom came got to go into the wedding feast. When they did, the door was shut (Matthew 25:10). Meanwhile, five others were scurrying to make last-minute preparations. They finally arrived, but it was to a closed door. It was too late.

The Final Closing

Jesus is the bridegroom. One day He is coming for His bride, the church (2 Corinthians 11:2). "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18). That process will take place "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). There will be no time to get ready then.

Men have devised various second chance theories, by which people who are not ready when Jesus comes will be given another opportunity. But the Bible says, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the

heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). It will be all over then. The door will be shut. That is why Peter went on to say, "Since all these things are to be this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (v. 11). That is why Jesus concluded the parable by saying, "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13).



An Earlier Closing

The door may shut even earlier than that. Hebrews 9:27 reminds us that "it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." At that judgment each one will "be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). There are no more "deeds in the body" after death: no hearing the gospel, no believing it, no repenting, no confessing one's faith, no being baptized into Christ for forgiveness of sins. No, it is too late for

all that once you die. For you, the door is then shut.

A Still Earlier Closing

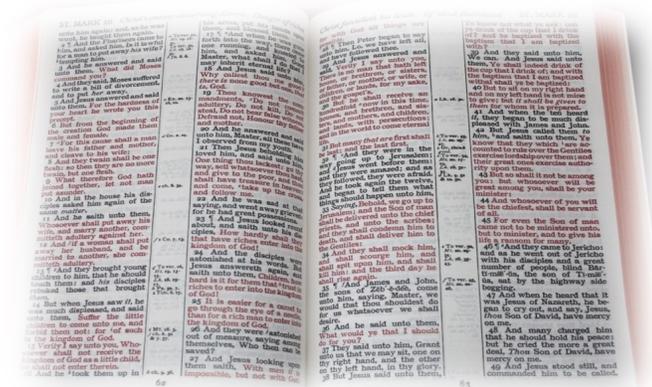
The door may shut even earlier than that, at least in practicality. Hebrews 3:12 warns us against the hardening effect of sin. 1 Timothy 4:2 speaks of those whose consciences are seared as with a branding iron. It is possible to become so engrossed in sin that ▶

“Jesus Didn’t Say It”

by Frank Himmel

With regard to homosexuality, women as preachers, and other hot topics, critics of Bible teaching sometimes emphasize the fact that Jesus did not say anything personally about the subject at hand. The implication is that since Jesus said nothing, what other Bible writers said is irrelevant or invalid. May I kindly say that such a deduction only reflects the ignorance of the one making it.

Whether Bible words are printed in black or red makes no difference in their validity or authority. Here’s why.



Jesus’ words were not His own. He said, “For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak” (John 12:49; cf. 14:24). God spoke through His Son (Hebrews 1:2), who is called

an apostle (Hebrews 3:1). Why would what God spoke through Jesus be valid, but what He communicated through other spokesmen be invalid?

Jesus commissioned His apostles to preach. He promised the Holy Spirit to guide them. Of the Spirit, Jesus said, “He shall take of Mine and disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you” (John 16:14-15). Since the apostles were speaking the things of Jesus, their instruction was His instruction, just as His instruction was God’s instruction. To deny that is to deny what Jesus said about what the apostles said!

Jesus said if we keep His word we will keep the apostles’ word as well (John 15:20). He knew many would do neither. The real problem, He said, is rejection of God (John 5:42; 15:21; 16:3). ■

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one loses his desire or willingness to get out of it. Friend, when you silence your conscience, when you resist all efforts to turn you from sin, you are slowly but surely shutting the door to your salvation.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus spoke of hearts so hardened that the devil takes away God’s word as easily as birds feeding on seed atop a road (Luke 8:11-12). Do not resist the truth. Do not close your heart to it. If you decline the invitation now, you may lose all interest for the future. And the door will be shut. ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Greg Winget	Adam Wilson	David Gray
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Steven Turner	Mark Clifton
OPENING PRAYER	Brian Wilson	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Jason Chandler	Jason Chandler	
CUP	Adam Gibson	Adam Gibson	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Wilson		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	Adam Gibson
CLOSING PRAYER	Chris Brooks	TBD	Rawland Daniel