

July 22nd 2012: The Invitation : Rev 3:20-22

It has been quite a journey.... In each of.....discovered interesting facts about... and always...heard...voice of the risen...proclaiming...His assessment
Often such assessments were extremely hard.

We think....the Ephesian...told....had lost... or the Laodicea...told...lukewarm

Yet behind all... these hard....not a wrathful... but a concerned and caring who wanted His...to be the best for Him...**in order**...receive..best from Him

This I feel is...message...Rev 3:19-20 delivers...for altho...these partic vers
found in.....**I** sense...hold a message for all the 7...and for all...ever since

You see all....been read in all....**A** church...not just interested... own letter
It heard what...Lord...saying...other churches...& learned from.. even as we

So what ...have in Rev 3:19-20.. is...explanation of why Jesus is prepared to say such...to His people...**and**...universal...**For** there...be times when every church...Christian...**will get** off track....& **Jesus**...not hold back from showing by His Spirit **where**...letting Him down...**But**...does...because...loves us

So v19 says: **Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent**

Pettersen in the Message puts it this way: "**The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God!**

I've often sat with parents.... who have had to show tough love....

Here is Jesus showing tough love... **And** He says...doing this because.. **I love...And** the word...uses for...never uses towards...**it is** that emotional **that** yearns to hug....**And also** in these two verses...speaks to individuals—

At times He will speak strongly to you and...At times...will discipline us.. some way...feel a little isolated from His love...but in fact those...times when loves us most...Times when...yearns for us to deal...things that separate..... to about face.... and run after Him again..... That's repentance.

Bev Holland sent me this story about a painter.....

Realising that this....no less than the judgment...got on his knees..cried out: **"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"**

And from the thunder a mighty voice spoke:--Repaint, repaint and thin no more!

That's kinda like what Jesus says to us ...when....away from Him and what said to six of these seven...**Repaint suggests**...need...get back to what ...should be doing aiming for as believers.

And often... as we acknowledge...have been rather thin on the ground in.. our living for Jesus...**so....also need to go.....** and be thin no more.

And to encourage us..... to get right with Him when....are astray.... **Jesus gives** to those who love Him....this beautiful promise....in v20.

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 him, and he with me.

Straight away ...see from...context...promise..for believers..... **It's about...**
our ongoing fellowship with Jesus.

The actual Greek...tells...Jesus has taken up a position at...is not moving
The knocking...a persistent tapping... and His voice...constantly calling out.

What He wants...is to come in...eat with.....and the believer with Him...and
verb used...**refers**...main fellowship!...**This was**..meal where.. conversation
time spent together... **were as central as**.....

So in Eastern...where hospitality...so import....**this** meal could...often did
last for hours...**It was** the time to catch....To encourage...give &receive love

Some believers are constantly aware...knocking..calling and are constantly
flinging...door....They seem to have.... this continuous fellowship with Jesus.

When you sit and talk with...you sense...Jesus is there...**They** have a peace
about them when....**expect** them to be stressed...**An** expectation...hope in
midst of chaos...**They** have...ongoing relationship with...obviously gives... joy

(Margaret Britton)

Other believers may not have...all the time... but you know...often they
seem to be linked...with Jesus... **They** are humming...thoughts....heavenly
or they are considering a person...situ...problem thro..eyes of their Lord

That is probably your exper....as a Christian.... **and you** know such times when Jesus is there knocking... and you gladly let Him in....&...such a joy when.....happens**that you** want it to take place.... more and more.

But sadly...are periods for us...when we keep.....door firmly shut..When we not able to exper...joy...Jesus so wants us to have... because...locked him...

It was interesting ...to recognize...when..came to this verse...auto thought of the door as being.....& indeed...**But**...doesn't say, Behold I.....& **I** believe could refer to doors... **we** put up that affect..... our relationship with Jesus.

The Christians at Ephesuserected a door of works rather...that first once had for Jesus...and it...blocking their relationship with Him

The church at Laodiceadoor ...of a lukewarm...and that was blocking

I wonder ...a door... that you....put up...preventing Jesus from spending precious time....**Time** that He needs... to build...strengthen....and to remind **you about how much He loves you.**

Perhaps for youdoor of busyness....**You**....been so busy..work..family.. problems...anxieties of life..**or** even..church...**that** Jesus...been left outside..
gently knocking....gently calling your name.

Maybedoor of disobedience....**You** know..things He wants...do or stop and you... have put up...with the sign...knock all...**but** I'm not ready to obey
And all he wants is to come and talk it over with you.

Maybe it's the door of trust...**You**..hurting.. over something.. happened to you or...**and** at the present.....keeping God...**And** yet God the Son knocks at

If there is....door like that in....then why not start to deal... **Christ** is there calling you to recognize....as the barrier...because He loves... **Calling** you to repent...**To make** the changes in...that will give Him... greater access.

But even if we....not conscious...any one partic door...is keeping Him out there is... this wonderful promises for us...**That** the more we allow Him into **The** more time...give for sitting...listening to...**The** more full...wonderful.. joy

So this morning take... moment....to think about just one thing...change in that will give Christ more time with you... More access into His relationship... More opportunities to guide...encourage....and tell you just how much...loves

And commit yourself to doing it..... for Him....who is your Lord... Friend....
and your Redeemer.

