



GOD Is Just a Prayer Away



Heard on the following 50,000 Watt Stations Every Sunday

WLW	6:30 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WLW	8:00 AM	700 DIAL	CINCINNATI, OH
WRFD	10:00 AM	880 DIAL	COLUMBUS, OH
KXEL	10:30 PM	1540 DIAL	WATERLOO, IA
WRVA	7:04 AM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
WRVA	9:30 PM	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VA
WSM	7:00 AM	650 DIAL	NASHVILLE, TN
WIBC	7:30 AM	1070 DIAL	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
WHAS	7:30 AM	840 DIAL	LOUISVILLE, KY
KAAY	9:30 PM	1090 DIAL	LITTLE ROCK, AR
WMCL	8:30 AM	1060 DIAL	McLEANSBORO, IL
WOAI	10:30 PM	1200 DIAL	SAN ANTONIO, TX - SAT.

SHORT WAVE RADIO

AFRICA:	Monday	7:00 PM	(1800 UTC)	7190 kHz on Dial
BEACON of HOPE				
N. AFRICA:	Sunday	8:30 PM	(1930 UTC)	9430 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE				
EUROPE:	Sunday	8:00 AM	(0800 UTC)	5945 kHz on Dial
SRI LANKA				
INDIA:	Sunday	8:30 AM	(0800 UTC)	9770 kHz on Dial
BIBLE VOICE				
RUSSIA:	Sunday	8:00 PM	(1900 UTC)	6015 on kHz Dial

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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Issue 9

What the Bible Says About the Modern Day Church

Not only does the New Testament reveal the formation of the Church of the first century in the book of Acts; all of the epistles are written mainly to churches and tells us what the Lord requires of all churches in every century since, including the twenty-first century.

The epistle written to the Church at Laodicea in Revelation the third chapter gives the insights of Jesus about a church consisting of real people in the first century who are amazingly just like many in churches of the twenty-first century in America today.

It was to this Church that Jesus said, "Behold: I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with Me."

There were two sounds given in this invitation: the knock, and the voice. The voice identified the knocker. A person might ignore a knock, but to ignore the voice of Jesus is to walk on a slippery slope. Remember, Jesus said, He was the shepherd of the sheep; the sheep hear His voice. He calleth His sheep by name; the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice. It appears the sheep in Laodicea ignored the voice of the shepherd, and that is why Jesus told them: "He that hath ears to hear, him hear."

In fact the Laodicean Church was the only church out of seven that was not accused of false doctrine. The reason they had no false doctrine was because they were lukewarm, and did not have enough conviction to be concerned about doctrine of any kind: either true, or false. They simply did not care, one way or the other.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Someone asked a certain preacher if it is a sin to drink coffee? He said, "Not as long as it is hot, black, and plenty of it." That is the way Jesus likes His Church. He

would rather have it hot or cold than lukewarm. Yet He still stands without and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

In that sense the Church must be in the mouth of Jesus before He can spew it out. The Church preaches the Bible message, and there is not much the Lord can say through a lukewarm Church, and that is saying a whole lot about their spiritual condition. Remember the Lord said that in the last days the love of many shall wax cold. Yet the Lord seems to say he can do more with a Church that is in the deep freeze mode than a lukewarm Church. Yet He still stands without, and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

The Lord has a lot to say to the world about salvation. But what can He say through a Church that is indifferent to the word on the plan of salvation, and believes it doesn't make any difference what you believe just so you are sincere. Such a Church makes Jesus sick and yet He still stands without and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

Jesus has a lot to say to the world about contribution of money, but what can He say through a Church where most spend more on booze and tobacco, and other entertainment than the Kingdom of God. Yet, Jesus still stands without and says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Jesus has a lot to say to the world about the contents of the Bible. But what can He say to the world through a Church that is composed of people who never read the Bible, and whose preacher never preaches it? Such a Church makes Jesus sick, and yet, He stands without and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

Jesus has a lot to say to the world about Christian unity. But what can He say to the world through a Church that is splintered and torn by division, and each splinter claims that it is the one true Church? Such a Church makes the Lord sick, and yet He still stands without and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

Actually it is amazing that this church could be so indifferent when we note that Paul wrote to a nearby Church of the Colossians and told the Colossians after they read his epistle to cause it to be read also at the Church of the Laodiceans. It is in that epistle that Paul spoke of such matters of setting your affections on things that are above and not the things of the earth, also how we have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. It is in that Epistle that Paul told how we are buried with Him in baptism wherein ye were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. The Laodiceans believed all Paul said in that epistle which was written for their benefit as well as ours, but paid little attention to it. And yet, He stands without and says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

Tacitus, a Roman historian speaks of the great wealth of Laodicea. A great earthquake hit the city in 60 AD and the city was rebuilt by the personal wealth of the population. It really was a rich city. In 79 AD a Roman stadium was dedicated to the Emperor Vespasian, where the Laodicean Leopards could play the Pergamos Ponies. That was the great passion of the Laodiceans at the time John wrote Revelation. Times have not changed all that much, and still both then and now, Jesus still stands without and pleads, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

What can the Lord say, or do with a Church like that? This is the Church as Jesus sees it in the twenty-first century. The church at Laodicea saw themselves as a rich Church. They actually said, "I am rich and have gotten riches and have need of nothing." Jesus did not agree. He said, "You are not only, not rich; you are poor, blind and naked."

There are some things money cannot buy. A report in a national magazine gave the names of the forty richest men in the United States history. Only three are still alive. The average age at death of the thirty-seven was 72 years. Every one of them was worth billions and yet with all that wealth they could not buy even one year of extra time. While I do not know their spiritual condition and relationship with the Lord, if they could not buy one more minute of life here on earth with all their billions what chance do they have of buying eternal life beyond the grave apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ?

Use your money while you're living, do not hoard it to be proud. You can never take it with you there's no pocket in a shroud.

And this is amazing. We live in the richest age of all times. There never was a time, place, or generation, where we would have been born and given more than the Church in this time, place, and generation. Some people used to live behind what was called the iron curtain, and some, like us today live behind a plush curtain. Thou sayest I am rich, but Jesus says you are poor. Actually the Lord really wants us to be rich. He said, "Buy of Me gold that you may be rich."

Jesus wants us to be rich. He wants us to have gold, and He tells us where we can get it. He said, "Buy it from me." Jesus is qualified to make that statement; are not the streets of heaven paved with gold? He has plenty of gold. Peter tells us how we can get this 24,000 Karat gold in his first epistle. He says, "It is the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved

by fire." Your faith is gold if you pay the price. He said, "Buy it from Me." How can you buy it? Spend, spend, spend, your time with His word. Faith come by hearing, and hearing by the word of God, and that kind of faith is pure gold.

He said also they were blind, and needed to buy some eye salve from Him. The people of that time in Laodicea had developed something called Phrygian eye salve. I do not know what that eye salve was, but it appears Jesus is the only one who has the real eye salve, and He has it for sale. He said they needed to buy some from Him. Whatever eye salve it is will help you see much better. The only eye salve I know is the word of God, and the more time you spend on it the better your vision will be in seeing spiritual things. I read the verse to a man where Jesus said; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." He looked at it, and read it for himself, and then said, "I don't see it." I think he needed to buy some of that eye salve Jesus has for sale.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into Him, and will sup with him, and He with Me. To Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.

When Jesus said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock," He was not talking about the person outside the Church; He was talking to the people inside the Church. The picture is the picture of Jesus standing outside His own Church trying to get in. The modern day Church is a Church where the Lord himself does not feel welcome. They have gathered in services to worship Jesus, and He is not allowed in. But He has not gone far away. He stands just outside and He continues to knock. Behold I stand at the door and knock. Sweetly the tones are falling—Open the door for me—If thou wilt heed My calling—I will abide with thee.

So open the door because your soul is like a house. It may have several doors, a back door, a front door and a side door. At which door does the Savior knock at the house of your soul? He may knock at the door of intellect. If you think about it, you know there must be a God. If you admit there is a God, it seems logical that God would not leave us without instructions as to what He expects of us. What other instructions could there be but the Bible. Again He may knock at the providential door. You get sick, have an accident, and have the death of a loved one. And you hear the knock on the door of your soul. Then again it may be that the Lord may knock on the door of conscience. You read the Bible, or hear a sermon, maybe this radio broadcast and you hear the knock of Jesus on the door of your heart.

Sweetly the tones are falling—Open the door for Me—If thou wilt heed My calling—I will abide with thee.

Behold I stand at the door and knock. The amazing thing about this statement is the way the next chapter begins. Think of it. Jesus said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock," and then the very next statement in the next chapter is, "After these things I saw, and behold a door was opened in Heaven." If we as a Church will open the door, and let Jesus in, He will open the door of Heaven and let us in.

UPDATE FROM IKE & LEE PERTEY

Praise the Lord the 9th month in the year 2006 is here thanks to God for it. The weather is still c-o-o-l that one needs to be in more clothes to keep himself warm. This is a weather I like than the hot weather with a lot of sweat. God is love and merciful for given us such a wonderful weather to cool us down after the usual hot weather. Nevertheless, I hate going out during this raining season due to the filthy environment, but because of God's work, we prohibit staying indoors—we need to go by hook or by crook, rain or shine and thank you (Ed, Naomi and Ellen) for the rain ponchos and the boots for us. Now I fear no foot rot. The work must go on unabated!

As usual, Lee and I were in the villages where **THE TRUTH-GIJAPA** is still working but unfortunately for us the cat and dog rains did not permit us to do much this month, as the weather was so bad for the people that many did not want to come out. Two of the evening classes did not come on due to the bad weather.

In all our work for the month, there's this outstanding cases that we cannot share with you; we had the opportunity to talk to some men in a drinking bar amiss with jokes as we teach them the Bible. But eventually, we had their attention when an elderly man who came in to take a 'tot' of alcohol to heat his body (due to the cold weather) came in to see us preaching the Gospel and advised the men to be serious with us. The owner of the drinking bar, the old man and two others received the word and the old man requested for baptism, which was done for him. PTL! The three others (who joined us with four other brethren for the baptism) promised to strongly worship with us to correct their ways for baptism. They both are in unwedded marriages and are attending church now. AMEN!

Now the owner of the drinking spot has asked us to assist him find a new business, as he can no longer sell alcohol to people now that he is following Christ. We told him we shall be praying over that. **OUR APPEAL**—We are begging everybody who reads this to pray for this man and his family so that the Lord will open a new door for them as soon as possible before the devil takes over again. Lee and I are trying to see how to help in this regard but it's not easy. So pray for this man.

OUR SECOND AND URGENT APPEAL

As of now, we have some 28 brethren who are struggling to perform the marital rites on their wives so that they can be baptized and 21 women whose husbands haven't perform the marital rites on them but are very radiant and serious with church attendance and activities. Many (about 90%) of the people in the church are unemployed and those who have jobs are no jobs to talk about. All these souls are on the waiting list to be baptized and be added unto the church but how can this be done? It's our responsibility to see to it that these souls become Christians or they will live and be seen as visitors in the church till they die and go to hell.

We are doing everything we can to address the situa-

tion by teaching them (especially the women) to let the men perform the rites on them before they have anything to do with them (avoiding fornication). We also advise on the need to bring forth to a smaller number of children and to space their births—something we hammer on during every meeting. This counseling is yielding results. Two sisters were here just last week to inform us about their parents wanted to see us over some brethren outside of their towns and congregations who are asking their hands in marriage. A mass wedding will be organized for all these people to reduce cost (Just \$150 each for these people will let them get married and be able to be baptized).

BIBLE STUDY COURSES

We are still receiving requests for the Bible Study Courses through E-Mail, our mailbox and personally. We still have some more lessons to be collected again from our designated point of collections, which we shall soon go for them.

BIBLES

Thank God it isn't like recently—the Bibles are coming but we still need more Bibles. We personally out of necessity bought 10 copies of Large Print Bibles for some elderly people who requested for them due to the fact that they cannot read the smaller prints. Thanks to Reg and Edith Rice for their gift out of which this was made possible.

We also thank everybody who donated for the Bibles and for the GIJAPA Radio Broadcast. We are praying for all of you and do remember one thing that, **“Not that we are looking for a gift, but we are looking for what may be CREDITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT” (Philippians 4:17)**. So as you give to God, He is crediting your accounts over there and one day, you will reap it in abundance. Also do remember that as you give to God for His work, we are together winning souls. Because **“We \$end the Gospel (when we give \$) but we end the Gospel (when there is no \$ before the end)”**. May God richly bless you all of you and replenishes your pocket with what you gave and would be giving. We are still on with our soul winning job and planning a public mass campaign in November and in December this year. Pray for us as we plan for and pray over it. Everything is going to come from Lee and I and we need to budget well to not affect our family finances.

May God richly bless you for all you are doing for GIJAPA to send the Gospel to millions of people. Please, continue to pray for Ed and Naomi as they are doing the work. Thank you and may the Almighty One guard and guide you till we meet again next month.

SHALOM-PEACE! THE TRUTH-GIJAPA from Ghana, Africa (2 Corinthians 13:8)

Letters

Dear Brother Bousman,

I received your recent article “Launch Out Into The Deep” and found it very thought provoking, it stirred my soul. Sunday on 700 WLW radio I heard the message “More About Jesus” it was truly moving to me and for me. Thank the Lord for someone who will tell the truth. Yes, a lot of preachers have what you called; ‘benditis.’ I am enclosing \$10.00. Please send the BOOKS OF SERMONS from OT.

Robert from West Union, Ohio

Dear sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ,

I start my letter in the name of Jesus Christ first of all I would LIKE TO THANK God for giving me a chance to write this letter and also I want to thank God instead of you that He likes to do this all blessing great message that you are passing to the people all over the world. May God blessing you in the name of our Lord Jesus. I am Saron from Eritrea I am 23 years old girl. I start to live a Christian life from 1999 but for some problem I can't continue this life but from now then by the help of the Holy Spirit I began to follow Jesus Christ and I conclude for not returning back again and me please pray for our country Eritrea that the government was declared for closing all the Churches** in my country and also arresting many brothers by their faith for 3-4 years still, may God return to our benefit. Please send me Christian literature and an English Bible and lessons to help me grow and prepare myself for God's work.

Yours in Christ Saron E. Africa

****We were notified by our local post office that delivery of all mail into this country has been suspended from US. However we continue to send books and letters with NO reference to God or religion on the outside label, hoping they will be delivered without inspection.**

Greetings Friends,

Enclosed you will find a page from my husband Paul's Journal written the Sunday he asked our SS class to buy Bibles in December of 2003. He has been gone almost 2 years and I still miss him every day. Also I enclosed a check for \$500 for Bibles this time. I'm sure Paul would want me to do this and I want to please the Lord too. In Christian Love from Madison, IN.

Paul's Journal, "We had a good service this morning-180 I think then we had 140 for PM. People are getting the Christmas spirit and I hope it is the spirit of Christ working through them. I ask the Fellowship Sunday School Class to buy Bibles for Ed Bousman's mission. The Bibles are \$96.00 for a case of 24. I hope that each member would buy a case, but I only got one case out of the whole class, \$12 each person, I was disappointed and I feel sure that the Lord was also."

Dear Brother,

The peace of God be upon you through Christ Jesus our Lord-Amen. I have been working here for the Lord for these few years. We were having our congregation by the time I arrived in this country but thanks to be to God we now have three congregations. Please keep praying for we here in Gambia. The population is 1.5 million with about 90% Muslim. I was very happy to read some of your Bible tracts as I print pamphlets that suit the African solutions and distribute. These are many denominational churches in this country and all around Africa.

Alexander from London Corner Church of Christ in Gambia, W. Africa

Thank you for your signal. Your signal was good enough to catch I'm sorry I'm poor at English. Do you have any plan of broadcasting in Japanese? I'll also enclose a banknote of \$1.00 US for your reply. I heard your broadcast "God Is Just A Prayer Away" over Beacon of Hope, N. Africa Sunday 8:30 PM.

Takuji from Tokyo, Japan

Dear Brother Ed Bousman & your fellow brothers,

Please Brother Ed let me again express my gratitude to my heavenly Father and my awesome Lord Christ Jesus who by His divine guidance brought me to contact with you. Really I am grateful and thankful to my redeemer Christ Jesus who always cares for me. For He is my Good Shepherd and I would not go without mentioning the good and faithful servant of our Lord to say-Brother Ed. Again I would thank you brother for being instrumental in the hand of my Lord always by try and error. But thanks be to God who raised servants who are diligent to serve God's people internationally across the world. Dear brother of mine I got your gift-New Testament Sermons-and am happy and am using them effectively. The Lord reminded me to pray for you according to Eph 1:17. Therefore, I am always praying for you after that manner. And I am sure that "the prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Dear brother of mine, God bless you in all manner of blessings.

In Christ Tesform from E. Africa

FOUR SERMON BOOKS
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