



PASTOR'S *Perspective*

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Listen! I am standing at the door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.
Rev. 3:20 nrsv

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What an invitation! Jesus reproves and disciplines those whom He loves.

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It should come as no surprise that once again we are in the Season of Lent and Passion. Lent is the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Resurrection Day (excluding Sundays) and includes the week known as Passion Week which culminates in the event of Good Friday. It seems as though we just celebrated the Seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. While it may seem as though the seasons crowd in upon us, the previously

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celebrated seasons and the one we now enter are thoroughly intertwined. Without the coming of Christ and all of the birth narratives in the Advent story there could be no passion, death and resurrection of Christ. The wood of the manger, in simple terms, quickly becomes the wood of the Cross and the whole of God's sweep of love for the redemption of humanity is cast in the two seasons.

The reality is that the Christian Year is dynamic and always moving just like the Christian life itself. The general themes of this season suggest a time of purging, repenting and new relationship. At the center of all of this is God's love for humankind and the movement of Jesus Christ into salvation history. The coming of and passion of Jesus Christ was to restore the broken relationship that existed between God's creation and God Himself. Although Calvary symbolizes, most clearly, the ends to which God would go to redeem and restore creation, the caption lifted at the beginning of this perspective states the extent to which we can respond to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. That extent is to let Jesus into our life!

This passage is what Jesus reveals to John on the isle of Patmos and tells him to write to the church at Laodicea. The church at Laodicea was a strange kind of church. It

expressed works and 'acts of church' but it had no spirit. In fact, Christ told John that the church was neither 'hot nor cold.' Jesus called the church lukewarm. He dug even deeper into their non action. He called them wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked. But then he offered them an invitation. In the verse just before our caption, Jesus says to them "I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest therefore and repent." Jesus' offer to them was a new life following repentance. What an invitation! Jesus reproves and disciplines those whom He loves. He loves us so much that He is always standing outside the door of our hearts waiting for us to let Him in; Waiting for us to show Him that we accept His invitation. Alas, that is what this season is all about; Letting Jesus Christ and His powerful presence come into our lives and occupy us so strongly that our bent towards sin and the trampling over of God's will for our lives is taken away.

As we approach these forty days what is the temperature of your relationship with Jesus Christ? What would He say about our church? Our individual lives and our resolve to live like Him? He stands at the door and knocks, waiting for us during this season yes, but at all times of our lives as well Will you let Him in and allow Him to sup with you as you likewise enjoy His presence in your life?