

T H E

D O O R

O F

Salvation Opened;

OR, A LOUD AND SHRILL

VOICE from HEAVEN

T O

Unregenerate SINNERS ON EARTH.

PLAINLY SHEWING,

The Necessity of opening your Hearts, that the King of Glory may enter in; or else, he will open Hell's mouth to devour you.

2 Theff. i. 8. *For he is coming, (saith the Apostle) in flaming fire, to take vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

By D. J. Minister of the Gospel.

G L A S G O W:

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M D C C L X X V.



T H E

Everlasting Door of Mercy and Salvation Opened.

Rev. iii. 20, *Behold. I stand at the door and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me.*

IT hath pleased the most wise disposer of all things, out of the riches of his free grace, to tender Jesus Christ to poor lost and undone sinners, and also it pleased the Lord Jesus not only to die for sinners, to redeem them from death and the curse of the law, that he might open a way for lost sinners to return to God: but is pleased to stand knocking at the door of their hearts, to entreat their souls to be reconciled to God. And therefore as you love your souls, as you love your bodies, as you would not bring damnation to yourselves, hear and fear, and do no more wickedly, but open your hard and stony hearts, that the King of Glory may enter in. O sinner! now Christ is standing and calling to thy soul, *If thou wilt hear and open, I will come in unto thee.* Now Christ is saying, 'I know thy work: I know well enough that thou hast been a blasphemer, or a drunkard, or a whoremonger; yet I stand at the door this day and knock, I will receive thee into mercy, I will forgive thee all thy sins, I will accept, I will heal, I will save thy soul, if thou wilt open thy heart this day unto me, and let me in.' O brethren, for Christ's sake, refuse not Christ; do not reject nor neglect so great a salvation, lest you perish.

1. Consider

1. Consider the necessity you have of him; *Give me children, or else I die*, said Rachel: O give me Christ, or else I perish for ever. Can you be saved without Christ? And if you may have Christ but for opening the door, *Then while it is called to-day hear and open to me* If the door of grace should be shut, thou would'st be shut up with a vengeance for ever.

2. Consider what answer thou wilt be able to make at the great day, if thou wilt harden thy heart, and not open: Why, what wilt thou? What canst thou plead for thyself at the day of judgment? Wilt thou say, The gospel never offered thee Christ? Why, thou hast heard this day, *If any man will hear and open, I will come in and sup with him*: Wilt thou say, I would have opened my heart, had it not been for the love of sin, or for ease, or liberty, or honour, or friends, or companions? Oh how will men and angels hiss at you! This is the person who for lust's sake forsook his mercies, who for a little vanity rejected his own salvation: O how wilt thou curse thyself for nothing! Nay for that which is worse than nothing, thou hast put off Christ and his salvation: Therefore men, brethren and fathers, hearken unto me, as Moses said to the Israelites, so this day I propound unto you *Blessing and cursing, life and death!* Salvation if you open to Christ, and damnation if you refuse Christ.

For the Lord's sake chuse not cursing, but blessing; chuse not death, but life, chuse not hell, but heaven; chuse not sin, but Christ; tho' you have formerly slighted him, if you will now regard him; tho' you have formerly contemned him, yet if you will praise him; tho' you have formerly resisted, if yet you will yield, if you will consent, if yet you will become willing to open unto Christ, Christ will be yours, mercy will be yours, salvation will be yours.

And

And what would you have more? What! will not all this do? Will not mercy allure you? Will not love constrain you? Then give me leave to reprove you, and affright you (if it be possible) out of those depths of Satan, into which you are fallen. However, I am resolved, whether you will or not, and the Lord fasten it upon your souls.

1. In the bowels of love and mercy, let me beg thee to ask thy soul this question, *How long will this life and the comforts of it last?* Thy soul is immortal, and must never die, but it must have a being somewhere to all eternity.

This world's happiness, is it everlasting? No surely: thy money, thy corn, and thy land, will do thee no good in the great day: O! What hast thou done for hereafter? What hast thou laid up for the world to come? Is the door of thy heart open to Christ? Alas! is thy poor soul unarmed all this while?

Quest. 2. *What will become of thee, when this life and all the comforts thereof are gone?* Oh, hard-hearted sinner! this broad way which thou walkest in, will never lead thee to the promis'd land, thy gold and silver key will never open heaven's gate for thee: thy care of this world's good, will not plead for thee before the Judge; all thy careful friends and acquaintances, with whom thou hast spent many joyful hours, their good words will stand thee in no stead.

Then thou wilt be ready to cry, O where is the Christ that I have despised! O where is the Jesus which I have resisted! Will he plead for me? No surely; but to go to the gods whom thou hast chosen; O what will become of me? Must I not die? O whither will death carry me! into which of the regions of the world will death land me, either of light or darkness? To which of the two regions am I now travelling; Certainly the day of pleasure or
worldly

worldly profit, the broad way of the world, it is not the way to transport me to heaven and everlasting happiness: I say, O sinners! to thy soul, what, must I be taken from all my glory and greatness, from all my delights and dalliances, and be thrown like Lucifer, son of the morning, from all my brightness into blackness and darkness for ever, when death hath closed my eyes, must I awake in everlasting flames? Ay, sinner, thou shalt, without remedy, unless thou open to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Quest. 3. Ask thy soul on which hand thou art like to stand on the day of judgment, on the right hand, or on the left among the goats? If thou wilt not hear and open now, if thou wilt not open thy heart now, be assured the devil will open hell's mouth for thee: What will be the end of those joys which now make so glad thy heart? You are now in the broad way to destruction, and utter separation from God's presence for ever. Thy pleasures here we judge of: Oh! but who can tell the thousandth part of these fiery torments, to which thou art liable in the other world!

When thou diest, thou shalt be a damned creature? whilst thou livest, thou art fed like a beast by common providence, and art a mere stranger to feeding promises: If thou lookest upward, God is frowning, and his wrath is revealed from heaven against thee, Rom. ii. 8.

The heavens and their host are ready every moment to discharge God's curses, like thunderbolts against thee? If thou lookest downwards, thou may'st see hell gaping and opening its mouth to swallow thee up quick; Many dangers attend thee every day, many miseries every moment, legions of devils stand about thee, watching for thee, and waiting only for the leave of God, to drag thy soul into the lake of fire.

Ah

Ah! when thou diest man, what must thou then do! When the captain, death strikes, whole armies of wolves will fall upon thee. Look to it, and remember thou wast once warned, for if thou diest, thou diest eternally. Saint Austin's prayer was "O Lord, hack me, hew me, burn me here: but spare me hereafter." As long as thou refuseth to hear Christ's voice, thou hast a hell upon earth: it is not the multitude of thy companions that go thither, shall any whit lessen thy torments, but rather increase them. Thy life that hath been full of worldly joy, shall end in deadly woe.

All you into whose hand this little book shall come, O let me beg you to consider in those bowels of love you have to your own souls; how your hearts can endure to think of being shut out of heaven, out of blessedness for ever: ask your heart these questions, Can I burn? Can I endure the vengeance of eternal fire? Will boiled oil, burning brimstone, scalding lead, a glowing oven, a scorching furnace, be an easy lodging for me? O! why my soul, wilt thou not be persuaded to repent? Is there too much pain in that? Thou art ready to say, I cannot bear a cross, nor an affliction, a scoff, or a reproach: Talk to thee of crucifying the flesh, of parting with thy lusts, with thy worldly companions, of entering in at the strait gate; O these are hard sayings, who can bear them?

But how wilt thou do to dwell with devouring fire? How wilt thou dwell with everlasting burnings? Whatsoever thou thinkest now, think what hell will be, when the day comes *thou must descend into it*: Thou mayest drink or laugh away the fear of it, but what will it be to thee when thou feelest thyself wrapped up in the flames of it, and not a drop of water to cool thy tongue! think on hell, O soul! and then think on Christ, and consider, if a Redeemer from such misery be not worth the accepting

cepting of: Think on hell, and think on sin, and carnal pleasures and delights, consider how they will relish with thee, when thus assaulted with everlasting fire: are these the price for which thou sellest thy soul to hell? Oh! bid these lusts and pleasures be gone; bid your companions in sin be gone, and tho' you loved them well, and have spent your time sinfully with them, yet tell them, You must not burn for them, that you will not damn your soul to please your flesh.

Having thus briefly as may be, laid down the use of terror, which I hope will awaken some poor souls out of the depth of carnal security: Now I shall proceed to the last use of encouragement, to encourage poor secure sinners to venture to lay fast hold on him, before that it be too late.

The U S E.

Oh poor soul! hast thou kept Christ out a long time: and art thou not yet resolved to open thy heart to him! What shall I say to thee; Let me say this, Christ waits for thee: Christ is willing still to receive thee, then why wilt thou undo thyself by neglecting this great salvation? Let the consideration of the message Christ brings you, of the errand he comes on, it is not a dismal one he brings, it is no dreadful errand: If Christ had come to destroy thy soul, could he have had less welcome than you gave him? Oh for your soul's sake receive him! Oh ye fools when will ye be wise? Come unto Christ, and he will have mercy on you, and heal all your backslidings, and love you freely.

But some poor souls will be ready to say, I have a desire to come to Christ, but I am afraid Christ will never receive such a wretched sinner as I, who have stood it out so long against him. For answer to this, give me leave to give you some directions.

1. Ah,

1. Ah, poor soul! art thou willing to come to Christ? Then will Christ in no ways cast thee out, if thou comest to him poor, miserable, blind and naked: O sinner! come not to him in thy strength; but come thou and say, 'O Lord, here is a poor soul not worth a farthing; O Lord, make me rich in faith; O Lord, here is a miserable soul, Lord, have mercy on me; here is a poor blind soul, Lord, enlighten me from above: here is a poor naked wretch, O Lord, save me, lest I perish, for I cannot help myself.'

Direct. 2. Come to Christ by believing in him; Ay, when thy poor soul is sinking headlong into hell, and sees no way to escape the fearful wrath of God hanging over thy head, catch thou then at such a time fast hold on Christ; O then apprehend and apply all his benefits to thy soul: Come this way, and grasp him in the arms of thy faith; and say, *I believe in thee, help thou my unbelief*: And the answer which the Lord will give thee, will be thus; *Be it according as thou wilt*. Let Christ be in your hands and the promise in your eyes; and no doubt, though thou hast been a rebel and a traitor, yet Jesus Christ having received gifts for the rebellious, will shew mercy to thee and receive thee.

Direct. 3. Come to Jesus Christ by repenting and forsaking all thy sins: Thou canst never come to the wedding supper, without the wedding garment; The old man must be done away, before all things can be made new, Jer. iii. 14. *O Jerusalem! wash thy heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved*. Which God of his infinite mercy grant we may all do, and be blessed for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

F I N I S.