

The Servant

Newsletter for Christian Servants ☪ 5523 Newberry Drive/Raleigh, NC 27609



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The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry

No Way!

Sometimes in an expression of unbelief we have been heard to say, "No Way!" When it comes from God, a "no" is as good as a "way." Praise God for every "No Way." The "Thou shalt not[s]" are as sacred as the "Thou shalt." Isaiah understood the importance of hearing "This is the way, walk ye in it." If "this" is the way, then "that" is not. When Paul was off to do the will of God and desired to preach in Asia, God said "no" at several junctures. Paul wanted to go to Phygia and the region of Galatia. The Bible tells us that the Holy Ghost forbade him. It seems strange at first, but not on second thought. God had other plans for Paul. Again when he wanted to go to Bithynia (Acts 16:7), God said "no." Oh, blessed "No." God had greater plans than these. Paul would finally come to Troas and there receive a vision and hear a cry for help that was clear and convincing. This Macedonian Call would open a door for millions. It was through this door that Paul would go and then lead Lydia and countless others into God's Kingdom. There is no need to "break down" doors when doing the work of God. If one is barred, so be it, we simply go on to another.

There are some doors that only God can open. Peter learned this when in prison. The night before he was to be executed an angel had to roust him from a deep and peaceful sleep (Acts 12), encourage him to put his sandals on and then led him through an open door. We too often spend long nights trying to "pick the locks" rather than trusting providence to work God's good. God can open doors to closed continents, as well as close confinements.

The opening of Europe to Christ involved a "Yes" from God, It also involved a "yes" from a lady named Lydia. When it comes to hearts, I do not think God breaks them down, as much as finds them broken. And even then, He knocks

before He enters. One day Lydia must have said "yes" to Jesus, for we know He entered in (Acts 16:14).

I thank God for all the closed doors, for all the "no's," for all the disappointments that cleared my schedule for God's appointments, for every "no" that made more room for God's coming "yes." In Revelation the Bible speaks of an open door (Rev. 3:8) and reminds me that no one can shut a door that God has opened, and no one can open a door that God has shut. God is the God of Doors.

After Noah built the ark, after all the work, ministry, and labor, the Bible says that the Lord "shut him in" (Gen. 7:16). While some were "shut in," some sadly were shut out. Could it be that God will soon shut a door? Could it be that a great door of opportunity is opening nearby (1Cor. 16:9)? If it is, I will go through it and thank the Lord. If one closes just before I enter, again, I will thank God; yes, I will thank God that He closed the door in time. His "No" is just as precious as His "Yes," for He is the God of Doors. ☪

One

There be no gods of thunder
No gods of wine or war
To look for them a blunder
to Baccas, Mars or Thor

But modern man a greater fool
To think himself divine
Or make his heart the scale and rule
Or to live by war or wine

There is one God, and only one
Though He goes by many names
Emmanuel the only Son
They are different and yet the Same

The Way, The Truth, The Life

I am the way- that's the avenue
I am the truth- that's the revenue
I am the life- that's the venue
of the True Church.

It is not enough to know that there is a God and what our Lord called "My Father's House." There is more. Jesus said: "No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

Jesus is the Avenue of the Church. He is not the avenue to the Church, but of the Church. Most think their church is either the avenue or the destination. It is neither. However, when it comes to church, it would be better to think "avenue" instead of "arena." Arenas are for watching, Avenues are for going. The Church is about "going places." If we want to "go places," we had better know the way. Jesus said, "I am the way." That's an Avenue. This world is not our home. This world is not "it." This world is not the end or our destination. There is no other way to come to God. To attempt to come any other way is either futile or foolhardy. The only way to come to the Father is through the Son. Every other way is the wrong way. Except for Christ we would not know how to come. Thomas asked "how can we know the way?" The church is not the way. Jesus is the way. Much of Christian activity these days involves arena Christianity more than avenue Christianity. And many imply that "they" or their group is way.

Revenue- The church is rich. Truth is the Church's revenue. Without it she is bankrupt. We know this word to mean a source of income or income from taxes and duties of a unit of government. The word revenue means to return or come back. (Re back venire to come). The only way for people to come back to God

is through Christ, the Truth. This is why the teaching and preaching of the Word of God is the most important thing that "happens" in church. There are those who claim to "have" the Truth. No one has the truth. The fact is, real Saving Christian faith is something that "has" you rather than something you have.

Venue- means "to come." In the coming there is life. Jesus is that life. Too many Christians mistake "Church Life" for life. The average Christian's calendar is so full, there is no room for Jesus, and no room for life. Some churches are so a busy, they so seize a person, that the church becomes their center.

We would do well to rediscover the one who said, "I am the way, the truth and the Life."



On War

I read The Boys' Crusade—by Paul Fussell on the madness of war. It is the story of my father and a million other fathers when they were just boys slogging across Europe in 1944. It reminded me of the day I (severely wounded in my soul and spirit by just a little taste of this madness) knelt by an Army bunk and bowed before the Prince of Peace. War in all its ugliness must be fueled by hatred for the enemy. Even the best of noble intentions, high ideals, and imagined moral superiority has not stomach enough to do the nasty business that is required. Only hatred, or fear can produce the fury necessary to tear the guts and heart out of someone else's son, father or brother before this foe (also driven by an equal fear or hatred) tries to kill your mother's son. What demon rides among these dogs of war only God can tell, but rest assured the stable of these steeds is not in heaven, but in hell. I pray for the peace of Jerusalem.



The God of Doors

I bow before the God of Doors
Who called Himself the Way
The Truth, the Life and so much more
And bow my head to pray

Though He Himself can walk through walls
And sees from high the maze
My view is blocked by narrow halls
And my passage blocked by stays

I need a door to enter in
or one to let me out
which points to where I should begin
or shows me freedom's route

I need to hear this Savior's voice
Whisper which way is right
Then heed by faith and willing choice
And walk by faith not sight

As called the Door, this God of Doors
Sometimes does softly knock
With Spirit taps and gently lures
And asks us to unlock

A way we never saw before
Now right before our eyes
There suddenly appears a door
That opens when one tries

Already we possess the key
That puzzled us for years
But now we see fits perfectly
The answer to our prayers



Jesus is the
Prince of Peace

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