Let Him In
Revelation 3:20

Objective: Encourage people to respond to Christ’s invitation.
Reading: Revelation 3:14-22
Memory: Revelation 3:20, “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.”

Introduction:
1. Folks in Laodicea are described as “lukewarm” in their devotion to God in Christ. This is not good.
2. Many who think of themselves as Christians today probably fall into this category. Would you describe yourself as genuinely "fervent" in your love and devotion, in your Christian walk? Think of the time spent in Christian activities. Think of how you order your priorities.
3. If any of us are “lukewarm” like they are, then we really have the same problems they have as Christians; We also are “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked”, (vs. 17) in a spiritual sense.
4. Like them, we need to respond to His counsel to buy from Him “gold refined in the fire” so we can be rich in heart and spirit, “and white clothes to wear”, to cover our spiritual shame, and “salve to put on your eyes”, so we can see truth and spiritual realities, and so we can respond to His love and discipline by repenting and turning wholeheartedly to Him with appropriate earnestness and devotion.

We need to acquire help from Christ. (HOW?)
There are some things we need to realize in order to receive Christ’s spiritual assistance in our lives.

Somehow, a lot of people miss it, but we need to

I. Realize that Christ has an invitation for you.
A. He wants a personal relationship with you.
   1. He has come to your own home, bringing an offer you must not refuse. An offer you cannot afford to ignore. He is seeking admission to your life.
   2. Isn’t it astounding that the God of all creation should come looking for us personally? While we were alienated from God, He came looking for us! That’s love. Friendship. That’s Who He is.
   3. God has come looking for you! Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
   4. Revelation 3:20, “…If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Almighty God wants to visit, share time and a meal with you!
      a. The significance of a meal is fellowship. Mutual sharing. God conversation. Heart to heart.
      b. You don’t generally sit with total stranger’s house for a meal – that’s for friends!
      c. The meal is for time and sharing. Companionship and help.
      d. “Nobody cares about me!” Well, somebody does! God does!
      e. What do friends talk about when they share a quiet meal? Some of us may avoid issues, but close friends talk about their problems. Life situations.
   5. Christ is trying to offer you His friendship and help.

B. How many ways does He try to get your attention?
   1. How many ways has He knocked on your door?
   2. Matthew 22:14, “For many are invited, but few are chosen.” Means essentially, that a lot of people receive invitations from God that do not respond. We need to RSVP!
   3. Maybe when your conscience pricks you. You feel guilty over something. You feel a longing for wholeness, righteousness? That’s Him knocking!
   4. When you hear His words on the radio. That’s Him knocking!
   5. When a small child with an innocent and open heart wants to go to church and you wonder why you don’t want to. That’s Him knocking! Narrow escape from an accident …
   6. How about in the beauty and miracles and mystery of nature. You stand amazed. That’s Him!
   7. When the Scriptures reveal your own hidden secrets and nature. When the secrets of your heart are laid bare by Scripture. That’s Him knocking!
   8. Don’t harden your heart. Don’t ignore His calling to you. You may have selective hearing with some, but don’t shut God out when He knocks on the door of your heart.
Most of us don’t just open the door to anyone that comes along. But Jesus is not just anyone with something to sell for His personal gain. He is one that is genuinely interested in our welfare and can genuinely help us. We need to

II. **Realize the value of the invitation.**
A. Christ is offering fellowship.
   1. Consider the advantages of such a friend.
   2. Consider the power, the guidance, the protection, the help. There is a reason Scripture says He will be called, *Isaiah 9:6,* “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
   3. If President O’Bama knocked on your door, even those who didn’t vote for him, or have since changed their minds, would eagerly open the door and invite him in. We would be honored. Here is one far, far greater. Here is one who IS the power, the resurrection and the life.
   4. His government will never end or fail. *Isaiah 9:7,* “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” He has all authority in heaven and on earth.
   5. He is offering you to be a part of it, a part of His glory and peace.

B. Christ is offering essential discipline.
   1. Revelation 3:19, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.”
   2. This scolding and discipline is really a form of training. To help you grow and mature into what you should be. Such training is a show of love.
   3. We ourselves rebuke and discipline those we love. We show them how to do things they need to know and correct them when they are wrong. *“Look both ways before crossing the street!”*
   4. When I knock on my new neighbor’s door to tell them they have left lights on in their car and battery will be dead in AM, they always appreciate it!

C. Christ is offering help.
   1. When folks come to my house offering a free energy survey, and window insulation. Nothing to sell, just a government help project, I let them in. Training. Information. Materials. Nothing to lose and much to gain! This is better.
   2. Sometimes we don’t realize that we need help. ( Gentleman knocked on my door at 3 AM to tell me Brian Faust’s car was on fire in my driveway)
   3. What is going on in your life that you don’t know you need help with?
      a. Laodiceans are in trouble and don’t realize it. “…you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”
      b. Maybe your life is filled with strife, “hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.” But you don’t realize it can be better. Maybe it’s always been that way for you and you don’t know any better. Maybe that’s all you’ve ever seen?
      c. Maybe you don’t know it should be / could be: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodnes, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”, maybe you’ve not seen it like that?
      d. Maybe you don’t realize that “… the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” So you ought to “You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.” Maybe you don’t realize that you can and be “…looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”
   4. Lord knows I need help! Spiritual help. We all do.

Once you know that someone is knocking at your door, requesting entrance into your life, once you realize that Christ is offering good and valuable help, you need to do something. Realize that you need to

III. **Respond to Christ’s Invitation.**
A. Hear His voice.
   1. Listening may require you to slow down! Elijah did not hear the voice of God in the storm or the violent wind, but just a wee small voice.
   2. Pay attention when He speaks of the nature of God and of God’s love for you.
3. Listen when He tells parables that speak to your heart.

4. *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* He has to offer in order for you to hear, but you have to choose to hear. You have to be willing to hear. This is your part.

5. Don’t be like the Pharisees who could not hear Him because of the hardness of their hearts.

6. Determine to hear Him:
   a. When He speaks the Truth; even when it seems harsh to you.
   b. When He warns you of wrath to come. When He urges you to repentance.
   c. When He says “lukewarm” doesn’t get it done – God will spit you out if you are lukewarm. Become passionate! Get serious.
   d. When He calls His sheep by name, come alert and follow Him!
   e. When He offers rescue and health and well being and green pastures and rest.
   f. When He explains mysteries. When He lays out the Way to heaven.
   g. When He tells how folks ought to conduct themselves in the household of God. Hear Him!

B. Open the door to your life.
   1. Notice that Christ does not force His way in, He comes to you with an offer of loving fellowship, but it must be *freely* accepted. Salvation is an *offer*. Not something imposed upon you.
   2. You NEED what Christ has. You NEED what He is offering, but it's not a hard sale approach, it's an *offer*; Revelation 3:18, “*I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*” But you must chose to purchase them.
      a. In one sense, it's without cost. Salvation is free. You can't buy it, only accept it.
      b. There is a sense in which it must be purchased; You swap lives. You hand your life over to Him for safe keeping. You die to self that you might live in Him.
      c. In one sense, it costs you your LIFE. But you are dead anyway, so it costs you nothing and it gains you life.

C. Welcome Him into your life.
   2. Be not only ready and willing to make appropriate changes in your life, be eager to make them! They are for your own benefit Verse 19; “*So be earnest*”, ETR says, “*So start trying hard!*” KJV says, “*be zealous*”.
   3. Christ has important things to tell you and to share with you. Welcome Him with your attentive obedience. Do what He says. Listen to His advice. Take His counsel and guidance.
   4. Ask Him to be Lord of your life, the captain of your soul. Submit to Him in faith that is expressed in baptism and earnest obedience.

So What?
   We need help. To be right with God, we need help. We need him to sit down at a meal and share fellowship with us so we can be right with God. To survive this life and enter heaven, we need Christ’s help. We all do. Christ is the help we need. He is knocking on your door right now, as we speak, with the offer of that help. Open up and invite Him in.

Closing Prayer:
Let Him In
Revelation 3:20

Reading: Revelation 3:14-22.
Memory: Revelation 3:20

“Hear! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

We need to acquire help from Christ.
Things we need to realize to receive Christ’s spiritual assistance in our lives.

I. Realize that Christ has an invitation for you.
A. He wants a personal relationship with you.
   Romans 5:8  Revelation 3:20

B. How many ways does He try to get your attention?
   Matthew 22:14

II. Realize the value of the invitation.
A. Christ is offering fellowship.
   Isaiah 9:6  Isaiah 9:7

B. Christ is offering essential discipline.
   Revelation 3:19

C. Christ is offering help.

III. Respond to Christ’s Invitation.
A. Hear His voice.

B. Open the door to your life.
   Revelation 3:18

C. Welcome Him into your life.

So What?
Christ is the help we need. Open up and invite Him in.