

THE  
Door of SALVATION  
OPEN'D.

Or, A loud and shrill Voice from  
Heaven, to Unregenerate Sin-  
ners 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 Thef. i. 8. *For he is coming, (saith the A-  
postle) in flaming Fire, to take Vengeance  
on them that know not God, and that obey not  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

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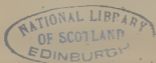
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Joseph R. ...  
...  
1752

the everlasting Door of Mercy  
and Salvation opened, &c.

ev. 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  
Grace, to render Jesus Christ to poor  
and undone Sinners, and also it pleased  
the Lord Jesus, not only to die for Sinners,  
redeem them from Death, and the Curse  
of the Law, that he might open a Way for  
Sinners to return to God; but is pleased  
to stand knocking at the Door of their Hearts,  
entreat your 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 your selves; 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 bear and open, I will come in unto thee.* Now Christ is saying, I know thy Works, I know well enough, that thou hast been a Blaphemer, or a Drunkard, or a Whoremonger, or a Thief, or a Sabbath-breaker, or a Scornor: Yet I stand at the Door this Day, and knock, I will receive thee unto Mercy, I will forgive 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 his sake, refuse not Christ, do not refuse Christ, do not reject nor neglect so great a Salvation, lest you perish.

1. Consider the necessity you have of him; give me Children, or else I die, saith *Rachel*; Or give me Christ, or else I perish for ever. Can you be saved without Christ? And if you may have Christ, but for the opening the Door; then while it is called to Day, then hear and open to him. If the Door of Grace should be shut, thou would'st be shut up with 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 can'st thou plead for thy self at the Day of Judgment? Wilt thou say, the Gospel never offered thee Christ? Why, thou hast heard this Day, *If any Man will bear*

hear and open, I will come in, and sup with him. Will those 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 thee! This is the Person, who for Lust's sake forsook his Mercies, who, for a little vanity neglected his own Salvation: O! how wilt thou curse thy self, that 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 propone unto you *Blessing and Cursing, Life and Death*: Salvation, if you open to Christ; and Damnation, if you refute 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 yet 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 what would you have more? What will not all this do? Will not Mercy allure you? Will not Love constain you? Then  
give

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 resolv'd, 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? The Soul is immortal, and must never die, but it must have a Being some where in all Eternity.

The Worlds happiness, Is it everlasting? No surely; thy Money and thy Corn, and thy Land, will do thee no Good in the great Day: Oh! 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 Acquaintance, 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 despis'd! O, where  
is

is the Jesus, which I have resisted? Will he plead for me? No surely: But go to the Gods whom thou hast chose; O, what will become of me! Must I not die? O, whether will Death carry me; into which of the Regions of the World will Death land me, either of Light or Darknes? To which of the two Regions am I now travelling? Certainly the Day of Pleasure, or worldly Profit, the Broad-way of the World is not the way to transport me to Heaven and everlasting Happiness: Say, O Sinner, 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 Darknes for ever? when Death hath closed up my Eyes, must I awake into everlasting Flames? Ay Sinner thou, 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 in 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

for ever: Thy Pleasures here we may judge of; But Oh! Who can tell the Thousand part of these Fiery Torments, to which thou art liable in the other World?

Whilst thou diest, thou shalt be a damned Creature, whilst thou livest, thou art fed like a Beast by common Providence, and art a meer stranger to feeding Promises: If thou lookest upwards, God is frowning, and his Wrath is revealed from Heaven against thee. *Rom. i. 3.*

The Heavens and their Host are ready every Moment, to discharge God's Curses, like Thunder Bolts, against thee: If thou look'st downward, 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 thee, and waiting only for the Leave of God to drag thy Soul into the Lake of Fire.

Ah, when thou diest, Man, what must thou then do? *When the Captain Death stricks,* whose Armies of Wovles will fall upon thee; Look to it, and remember, thou wert once warned, lest thou die eternally. *St. Austian's Prayer was, O Lord rack me, bew me, burn me here, but spare me hereafter.* As long as thou refuselt to hear Christ's Voice, thou hast a Hell upon Earth: It is not the multitude of thy Companions, that go thither



shall any Wit lessen thy Torments, but rather increase them; thy Life that hath been full of Wordly Joy, shall end in deadly Woe.

All you, into whose Hands 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 Oyl, burning Brimstone, scalding Lead, a glowing Oven, a scorching Furnace, be an easy Lodging for me? O, Why my Soul, wilt thou not be perswaded to repent? Is there too much Pain in that? Thou art ready to say, I cannot bear a Cross nor any Affliction, a Scoff or a Reproach: Talk to thee, of cruising the Flesh, of parting with thy wordly 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 think'st now, think what Hell will be when the Day comes, thou must descend into it; Thou may'st drink or laugh away thy Fear of it, but what will it be to thee, when thou feelest thy self wrapped up in the Flames of it, and not a Drop of Water to cool thy Tongue!

Tongue! Think on Hell, O Soul, and then think on Christ, and consider, if a Redemer from such Misery, be not worth the accepting of! Think on Hell, and think on Sin, and carnal Pleasures and Delights, consider how they will relish with thee, when thus salted 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, and Sins, 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 as 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.*

Oh, poor Soul! Hast thou kept Christ out a long Time, and art thou not yet resolv'd to open thy Heart to him? What shall I say to thee, Let me say this, Christ waits still for thee, Christ is willing still to receive thee, then why wilt thou undoe thy self by neglecting so great a Salvation? Let the consideration, of the Message Christ brings you, of the Errand he comes on, (it is no dismal one he brings, it is no dreadful Errand.) If  
Christ

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 Soul will be ready to say,  
 I have a Desire to come to Christ, but I am a-  
 fraid, Christ will never receive such a wretch-  
 ed 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 poor Soul, art thou willing to come  
 to Christ? Then will Christ in no wise  
 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,  
 O 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 my self.

*Direct.* 2. Come to Christ by believing in  
 him; Ay, when thy poor Soul is sinking head-  
 long 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: Oh then apprehend, and  
 apply all his Benefits to thy Soul: Come  
 this

this way, and grasp him in the Arms of thy Faith; and say, I believe in thee, help thou my Uabelief. And the Answer, which thy Lord will give thee, will be thus; *Be it according as thou wilt.* Let *Christ* be in your Hand, and the Promise in your Eye; and no Doubt, tho' thou hast been a Rebel and a Traitor, yet *Jesus Christ* having received the Gifts for the Rebellious, will show 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 taken away, before all things can be made new: *Jer. iii. 14.* O *Jerusalem* wash thy Heart from Wickedness, that thou mayst be saved, which, God, of his infinite Mercy, grant we may all do, and be blessed for ever, thro' *Jesus Christ* our Lord and Saviour.

*FINIS.*