

January 18, 2022

**A DOOR IS OPEN!**

On the 2nd Sunday in Advent, I preached a sermon in which I raised the issue of the difference between Christians and non-Christians, a difference about which, I stated, we all need to be aware. My hope was that people would do some thinking about that statement. I still hope so! I went on to observe that once a person makes a mature confession of faith, a subtle change occurs in his perspective. Life and the world take on a new meaning. That person becomes aware that a door is now open which was not open before. As I have thought about this, I have concluded that this analogy of an open door is important! As you read or hear this, your brain should be asking the question. “A door is open to where?”

My answer is that the open door is your way out of the human predicament. That open door means that you are no longer trapped in the meaningless secular world of superficial answers to life’s pressing questions. We go through our lives searching hard for those answers but all too often we run into dead ends or blank walls. The French existentialist Albert Camus wrote a book about this titled, NO EXIT.

The apostle Paul struggled with this same frustration in his own life. Where is true redemptive meaning to be found? One day on the road to Damascus, the answer came to him in a flash. It was a vision of Jesus! After his dramatic conversion, Paul began thinking about what had happened to him. He reasoned that- through his faith in Jesus – he was now living in a new age. The old age of Adam characterized by sin and unrighteousness had for him now been replaced by a new age of God’s righteousness received through faith in Jesus.

In his writing, Paul talks clearly about two different orders of human existence, one under the dominion of death and one under the dominion of life. Writing in Colossians (1:13), he says, “He [God] has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of his Son.” All this resulted from that flash of insight and inspiration on the road to Damascus when Jesus captured Paul’s heart and mind.

What age are you living in? The one before Jesus or the one after, the new age? Think hard about that open door which is a part of your life. It is the pathway to the new age, that which is described by Paul in II Corinthians 5: 17, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come.”

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