

# Standing At The Door

John 18:15-18



## Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe  
731-845-6104

online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)

**FOCAL** John 18:15-18<sup>KJV</sup> And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. {16} But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. {17} Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. {18} And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

**John 21:15-17 Responsive Reading** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. **He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.** {16} He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. **He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.** {17} He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. **Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.**

I rarely read things in the newspaper that I enjoy, for most of what passes for "news" today is either soft *pornography* or graphic *violence*. The public may "have a right to know" as the so called First Estate loves to say,

but quite frankly I don't usually want to know what they think I *ought to know*. However, I was reading the a local newspaper on line<sup>1</sup> the other day and saw where a City Board member stood up and recommended removing filthy and suggestive "Rap Music" from all school events. When one member spoke up and said that banning certain types of music might ban all types, and a parent said that playing this music helped "pump up" the kids, the Board member in question stated:

“Well, you can get pumped up to not that kind of music,” \_\_\_\_\_ retorted. “You can get pumped up playing ‘Rocky Top’ or the school fight song. But you’re saying it’ll offend some people (to cut out rap)? Well, I like gospel music. It offends me because they’re not playing gospel music.”

Our message today is *not* about music, nor is it about what type of music a school plays before the team takes the field. Our message today is about **standing up for Jesus no matter where you are**. Why should you want to stand up for Jesus?

### **1. You Should Stand Up For Jesus Because Jesus Stood Up For You**

**FOCAL** John 18:15-16 And **Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest**, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. {16} But **Peter stood at the**

### **door without.**

Why should a *professing disciple* of Christ stand up for Jesus? Because, dear friend, Jesus **stood up for you!** We studied last week how some *five hundred soldiers* came after Jesus and His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, and we saw how Jesus stood against them all. Jesus stood up for His Sheep. **Peter and this other unnamed disciple** were able to follow Jesus to His trial because the Master *stood up for them* in the Garden. When these soldiers, armed and ready, came to take Jesus our Master stood and said:

**John 18:8 I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these {disciples - eleven sleepy men} go their way ..**

The Master stood for Peter, will Peter not stand for Jesus? To give him credit, **Peter and that other disciple** followed the crowd of soldiers. By the way, who was that other disciple? I believe it was **the Apostle John**, because **Peter stood at the door without**, and yet **John** reports what went on behind those closed doors. As a matter of fact, *only John* reports - word for word - this initial meeting between **Jesus and Annas**. Though our Lord would be struck many times, only John reports this incident:

**John 18:19-22 The high priest {Annas} then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. {20} Jesus answered him, I spake**

<sup>1</sup> <http://decalurcountyonline.com/>

**openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.** {21} Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. {22} And when he had thus spoken, **one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?**

Jesus Christ stood up openly teaching in the Temple and in the Synagogue, in the Church and in the Sunday School. He never **spoke in secret**. Jesus **stood up for you and for me**. When our Lord *left Jericho* a great crowd followed Him, and in the midst of that crowd were two blind men.

**Matthew 20:32-34 Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? {33} They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. {34} So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.**

Were we not blind, part of this evil world, when Jesus came and gave us sight? Weren't we all like the man born blind from birth? Jesus stood for us and gave us sight. We should stand for Him and say, **"one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see"** (John

9:25).

Jesus stood up for you! The Scripture says that we were all ...

**Ephesians 2:1-5<sup>NIV</sup> ... dead in your transgressions and sins, {2} in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. {3} All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. {4} But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, {5} made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.**

We neither earned nor deserved our salvation, but God Who is merciful saved us. Jesus stood up for us, dying for us, so that we could live with Him in glory. Because you are saved you will never see that place of eternal burning. **Dr. R. Albert Mohler<sup>2</sup>** recently stated:

**"The vast majority of men and women throughout the centuries of western civilization have awakened in**

the morning and gone to sleep at night with the fear of hell never far from consciousness--until now. Sin has been redefined as a lack of self-esteem rather than as an insult to the glory of God. Salvation has been reconceived as liberation from oppression, internal or external. The gospel becomes a means of release from bondage to bad habits rather than rescue from a sentence of eternity in hell."

But if you're a Christian, you *know* there is a hell. You have just read with me that - prior to Jesus - we were **all by nature objects of wrath**. You have read the text in Luke 16 of the rich man who:

Luke 16:23 ... **in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught about hell, and the truth that hell is so terrible that it would better to *cut off your hands and pluck out your eyes* than to go into that place. What a horrible place,

Mark 9:44 **Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

Jesus believed in hell, and preached it. I believe in hell, that it is a real place, a place of torment **reserved for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)**. Because Jesus stood for you, because you have accepted what He has done on that Cross of Calvary *for you*, you shall never be in that place. You heard the words that:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

You came to the Master's side. If you are His, now you *must* stand with Him!

## **2. You Must Stand Up For Jesus, For True Faith, Saving Faith, Is Never Passive**

**FOCAL** John 18:16-17 ... **Peter stood at the door without. .... {17} Then saith the damsel<sup>3</sup> that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.**

If you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, then you *must* stand with Jesus. **Jesus Christ is the Door of the Sheep (John 10:7)**. You entered into salvation through this door. You stand with Jesus, and you stand with power.

Oh my Beloved, when you compromise with the world, you stand with weakness. All **four evangelists** report this incident between Peter and **the damsel that kept the door**. When we look the word **damsel** up we see that this

<sup>3</sup> G3814, παιδίσκη, paidiskē, *pahee-dis'-kay*, Feminine diminutive of G3816; a *girl*, that is, (specifically) a *female slave* or *servant*: -bondmaid (-woman), damsel, maid (-en)., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

is used for a *young girl*, perhaps even a child, who was assigned the duty of opening and closing a door. A *young child*! **Dr. Ray Pritchard** said:

**"True faith is never passive. True faith moves us to act, to do, to try, to build, to attempt, to expand, to say "no" to sin and "yes" to righteousness, to join, to speak out, to move forward, to dare to dream beyond our means, and to walk around Jericho again and again until at last "the walls come tumblin' down." ... Faith is "outrageous trust in God." I like that.**

**"Outrageous trust" is what you have when you build an ark hundreds of miles from any body of water. "Outrageous trust" compels you to leave your home not knowing where you are going. And "outrageous trust" sends you into the Elah Valley to face Goliath."**

True faith is *never* passive. True faith believes in Jesus, then *steps out on that belief*. You believed that the pews you are sitting in today would hold you, else you would have never released your body to sit in those pews. Faith is always proved by action!

Faith was not driving Peter at this point, but *fear*. When you step out on faith you find out that:

1 Corinthians 1:9 **God is faithful**, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

When you step out on faith, believing and trusting in Jesus, you see the faithfulness of God. The Bible tells us:

Hebrews 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please {God}: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Immediately after we read this verse, God defines what He means by **believing that God is**. We read in Hebrews 11:

- ★ By faith Abel *offered God*(v. 4).
- ★ By faith Enoch *pleased God*(v. 5).
- ★ By faith Noah *built for God*(v. 7).
- ★ By faith Abraham *followed God*(v. 8).
- ★ By faith Isaac *blessed the younger Jacob for God*(v. 20).
- ★ By faith Jacob *blessed his grandsons for God*(v. 21).
- ★ By faith Joseph *promised the Exodus by God*(v. 22).
- ★ By faith Moses' parents *saved their son for God*(v. 23).
- ★ By faith Moses *led Israel for God*(v. 24).
- ★ By faith the people *passed through the Red Sea for God*(v. 29).
- ★ By faith the walls of Jericho *fell for God*(v. 30).
- ★ By faith Rahab the prostitute *saved the spies for God*(v. 31).

In each instance *faith was made active* by stepping out and believing that **God is faithful**. You may say that you believe Jesus, but if you do not stand up for Jesus you will never be blessed.

When **Peter, James, and John** followed Jesus, they were able to see our Lord in **shekinah glory on the Mount of Transfiguration**. When the disciples allowed themselves to **follow the crowd and to follow fear**, a *little child caused them to tell a lie*. It was no strong soldier that confronted Peter this day, but a little girl who asked him:

**FOCAL** John 18:17 ... **Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.**

When you walk with Jesus, even death has no hold on you - but if you walk with the world a little child will cause you to deny the Master. Do you remember when Peter, James, and John went with Jesus to see the *dead daughter of Jairus*? Our Lord looked at this twelve year old child and said:

Mark 5:41 ... **Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.**

and she rose from the dead. With Jesus, a child conquers death. Without active faith in Jesus, a child frightens you!

Just as *true saving faith* is active, the opposite of that, *compromising unbelief* is also active. Do you see Peter standing at the door of the Temple? He betrays Jesus, violating God's ninth commandment by *lying* and denying the Master. When he said those three awful words **I am not**, perhaps Peter remembered what Jesus said:

Matthew 10:31-33 ... **Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. {32} Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. {33} But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**

Could those words have come to his mind, rising up like bile to cause tears to stream from his eyes? No, I'm afraid we see a pattern here that may even be true of ourselves. Once Jesus is denied, and once the believer fails to stand with Him, it becomes easier to continue in compromise. We read:

John 18:25 ... Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, **Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.**

Rather than do as Jesus said, and:

Matthew 5:16 **Let your light so shine before**

**men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

This should have been Peter, the little rock who believed on Jesus that Great Rock. This should have been Peter, who walked on water. Surely Peter, who saw Jesus in glory with Moses and Elijah would stand up for the Master! But **Simon Peter** warmed himself by the fires of the world. Once you step on that slippery path, denying the Lord, then it becomes easier to deny Him over and over again. We read:

**John 18:18-27** And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. ... {25} And **Simon Peter stood and warmed himself.** They said therefore unto him, **Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.** {26} One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, **Did not I see thee in the garden with him?** {27} Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

**Simon Peter stood and warmed himself**, while denying the Lord. This happened not once, nor twice, but three times in fairly quick order. Compromise with the world is like walking down a miry slope. You *will* fall - *when* is

only a matter of time!

### **3. If You Have Not Stood Up For Jesus, Now Is The Time To Begin**

**FOCAL** John 18:18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and **Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.**

What does God require of His People? What does He require of you, if you have failed to stand for the Lord? The devil *loves* to use guilt, to use condemnation, to use every negative *feel bad* emotion he can. Yet this is not God's way. God's way is:

**a. Confess your sin before God:** Even if you are saved, both you and I are sinners. We are not perfect. God knows we're not perfect. Once you were saved, you entered a state of being called *sanctification*. You became the **workmanship of God**:

**Ephesians 2:10** For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

Satan's game is to have you leave this place feeling guilty. God's Plan is for you to leave this place **understanding who you are in Christ**. Recognize that you, like Peter, are a **work of God in progress**. Do as the Scripture says:

1 John 1:9 ... **confess our sins, {for} he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Recognize that you have fallen from Jesus. Confess the fall to Jesus, and then believe that He has forgiven you. **Judas Iscariot** felt sorry for his sin, but he never asked Jesus to forgive him. He went to the priests who, quite frankly, were every bit as lost as he was. Judas, consumed by guilt, killed himself. That's what Satan would have you do, but God would see you fruitfully serving Jesus.

**b. Begin to consistently live in friendship with Jesus:**

We have sung:

**Jesus loves me, This I know;  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, But He is strong!**

Jesus loves YOU. He gave His life for YOU, and wants you to walk in friendship with Him. Jesus tells us:

**John 15:15-17 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. {16} Ye have**

**not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. {17} **These things I command you, that ye love one another.**

It is Jesus' desire that every believer *produce much Kingdom fruit*. This means we must live in friendship with the One Who saved us from eternal fire! Serve Him out of an overflow of love.

Jesus loves you!

Love Him back! Love Him *more* than you love the world, or even your own self. If you are friends with Jesus, then you will do as He says. Love Him, trust Him, follow Him.

I like to look numbers in the Scripture. Jesus, to my knowledge, *never* condemned Peter for betraying Him three times. As a matter of fact, on the *third* time that Jesus saw the disciples after having been *three days* in the grave, Jesus asked Peter *three times* "Do you love Me?" (John 21:15-17). **If you have fallen, love Jesus. Confess you sin, then lovingly serve Him.**

**c. Remember that Faith requires that you "Put On" God:**

There's an interesting phrase in the Scripture: **Put on**. Once you were saved God expects you to daily ..

- ★ put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14;  
Galatians 3:27)
- ★ put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12)
- ★ put on the new man (Ephesians 4:24;  
Colossians 3:10)
- ★ put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians  
6:11)
- ★ put on the articles of love (Colossians 3:12-14)

Remember, the CHRISTian is a person who has CHRIST inside. God has equipped you to live in this present evil age as a bright light leading others to Christ. You are not called to perfection in this life, but you are called to **put on** the things of God. You are Kings and Priests indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. Walk in that light!

May God touch your hearts with these words.

