

## The Porter

- A. **porter**: One who has charge of a door or gate, esp. at the entrance of a fortified town or of a castle or other large building, a public institution, etc.; a gate-keeper, door-keeper, janitor.
1. This was a lowly but important station in the O.T. tabernacle or temple. **PSA 84:10 c/w 1CH 9:21; 2KI 12:9.**
  2. During a transitional period there were "...doorkeepers for the ark" (**1CH 15:23-24**).
  3. The porter did not cleanse men but determined who was clean or unclean and so allowed or barred entrance. **2CH 23:19.**
- B. God the Father is the great Porter of heaven. **JOH 10:1-5.**
1. Jesus is the *door* and *shepherd* through Whom the sheep enter eternal life. **JOH 10:6-11, 27-28.**
  2. The Father only and always permits those He gave to Christ to enter. **JOH 10:29; 17:2.**
  3. Christ cleansed the elect with His blood (**REV 1:5**) and the Father Porter thus lets them all in at the last day even as they are presently received in the Person of Christ. **1TH 4:16-17 c/w EPH 2:6.**
  4. Christ's cleansing blood also fits believers to now enter glory in service and prayer. **HEB 4:16 c/w EPH 3:11-12; HEB 12:22-24.**
  5. No man in any way comes to the Father but by Him. **JOH 14:6.**
- C. Jesus Christ also is a Porter who opens and shuts doors. **REV 3:7-8.**
1. This is fitting since the Father has committed judgment to Him. **JOH 5:22.**
  2. He has authority to determine who only should be baptized. **MAT 28:18-20.**
  3. He has authority to shut doors against rebels with finality. **LUK 13:23-25; 14:24.**
  4. His Spirit opens or shuts doors of evangelism. **ACT 16:6-10.**
- D. Jesus Christ has appointed porters for His house, the church. **MAR 13:34.**
1. As a porter, the minister of Christ is a watcher for souls (**HEB 13:17**), for potential trouble (**2TI 4:14-15**), for heresy's inroads (**1TI 1:3**), etc., and shuts doors where necessary while continually watching for his Lord. **MAR 13:35-37.**
    - a. The Lord may stand and knock, expecting the door to be opened. **LUK 12:36.**
    - b. The porter should not judge prematurely but certainly open the door when His Lord comes with light. **1CO 4:5 c/w 1TI 5:19-25.**
    - c. The porter should be willing to open the door for his Lord whenever conviction from his Lord's word demands change. **PRO 4:18 c/w REV 3:20.**
  2. The minister of Christ determines who should be baptized according to the law of Christ. **ACT 2:38-41; 8:12, 36-38.**
  3. By the law of Christ, the minister of Christ may determine who should be severed from church membership and instruct the church accordingly. **1CO 5:3-5.**
  4. The minister of Christ thus determines who has a voice in church decisions and who may eat of the Lord's Supper: baptized, current members in good standing of a local church.
  5. It is also incumbent upon the minister/porter to determine when a severed member is fit to begin a restoration to membership upon observed genuine repentance. **2CO 2:6-8.**
- E. It is the duty of all believers to recognize the ways of God and strive to be like Him. **DEU 18:13; 1PE 1:16; 1TI 4:8.**
1. Ministers are especially to respect scripture for this. **2TI 3:16-17.**
  2. All should strive for righteous judgment and better judgment. **JOH 7:24; PHIL 1:9-10.**
  3. God sometimes in judgment shuts doors for great periods of time, even permanently.
    - a. A door of faith and repentance unto life was withheld from the Gentiles for millennia. **ACT 17:30; 11:18; 14:27.**

- b. Canaan's door was slammed shut permanently against the faith-deficient Israelites in spite of a scrambled repentance. **NUM 14:32-45.**
  - c. Moses even went too far. **NUM 20:12 c/w DEU 3:26.**
  - d. We are warned against the likes of Esau's rejection. **HEB 12:15-17.**
  - e. Sometimes remedy expires. **2CH 36:16; PRO 6:12-15.**
  - f. God may even scold rebels to get help from their own vain sources. **JDG 10:13-14.**
  - g. There are some lines crossed from which there is no return. Consider someone who locks himself in a state of adultery or a minister who has been censured/blamed and made a castaway. **1CO 9:27.**
4. Christ's minister/porter may need to make tough judgment calls of baptized individuals who have manifested their folly or delinquency. **ACT 8:18-23; 15:37-38.**
- a. Fools lay open their folly especially by their rejection of truth for something else that substitutes for the truth. **PRO 1:7, 28-32; 13:16; ECC 10:3.**
  - b. When someone persistently goes back to the same slop in spite of judgments and reproofs, he is a fool. **PRO 27:22; 26:11.**
  - c. "Forsake the foolish, and live..." (**PRO 9:6**).
  - d. **2CO 11:19** is a sarcastic reproof, not a commendation.
  - e. "Easy return" may be a viable retailer's policy but wisdom says differently when it comes to fellowship with fools. **2SAM 14:33-15:6 c/w EPH 5:15.**
5. There is a difference between rebelliousness and feeble-mindedness (**1TH 5:14**) and a good portion of the work of Christ's porter is to distinguish between the weak, the wacky, and the wicked.