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Standing At The Threshold

John 10:9

Communion Meditation

Trinity Albany - 1/4/59

STANDING AT THE THRESHOLD

"I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved...." John 10:9

I. Introduction

I cannot tell you how many times I have seen the phrase, "Standing at the threshold of the New Year." It is a good enough figure. Some people describe the New Year as a plain sheet of white paper, a new page in a book, but it is more than that. The New Year is a vista stretching out in front of us. The New year is a room, yes more than a room, it is an unexplored building.

If we can think of the New Year as a building then we have to enter it through a door. I have discovered that there are buildings which give you a choice of doors, but your whole impression of the building is ~~strongly~~ determined by the door you use. The first time I visited the United Nations I came in by some sort of a side door and it was not until I left that I saw the magnificent entry. My whole impression would have been different if I had come in by the right door.

So many people enter life's experience by the wrong door and the result is they miss much of its beauty. Before you enter any New Year, before you enter any new experience you should always stand at the threshold and find out if you are using the right door. School, college, marriage, your job -- think of the different doors you may use to enter any one of these experiences -- think also of the difference it will, or perhaps has made.

And then this new Year of 1959. What door are you going to use to enter it? Some people enter the New Year through the door of pleasure. I guess most people use this door. Some people enter through the door of introspection, contemplation, sadness that another year has come. Some people use the door of fear -- fear of the unknown, dread of that which is to come.

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II. In the Gospel we read today Jesus says: "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved...." Has it ever occurred to you to enter the New Year through Christ?

This morning as we come to this Communion let us consider that we are entering the New Year through this door.

Ask yourself what this may mean for you --

- a. It will mean that we shall enter the year seeking God's will for our lives
- b. It will mean that we shall enter the year with the resolve to accept God's grace for our lives and that we shall not be so concerned to produce success for ourselves
- c. It will mean that we shall enter the New Year finding that peace which passes all understanding