

The Door of the Sheep - 1

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Scripture Text: [John 10:1-10](#)

Introduction

Here in John chapter ten, our Lord identifies Himself as the Door of the Sheep and as the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. These truths are very closely related. Today, I want us to focus on Jesus' statement, "I am the Door of the Sheep."

There are three things in these texts that I want to talk about.

I - An Important Announcement.

II - A Bold Assertion.

III - A Gracious Assurance.

First of all ...

I - An Important Announcement

Our Lord is making a very important announcement and He begins with the words, "Verily, verily, I say unto you ..." "Truly, Truly, I say unto you ..." which in the original "Amen, amen, I say unto you ..."

Jesus frequently used these words ...

[John 3:3](#) Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee**, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

[John 3:5](#) Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee**, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

[John 5:24](#) **Verily, verily, I say unto you**, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

[John 6:47](#) **Verily, verily, I say unto you**, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

[John 8:58](#) Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you**, Before Abraham was, I am.

[John 10:7](#) Then said Jesus unto them again, **Verily, verily, I say unto you**, I am the door of the sheep.

Jesus never said any deceptive or idle words. Every word that came from His lips was true and important. And when He uses these solemn words, He is saying, "*I am telling you the truth, I am the door of the sheep.*"

Verily, verily means what He is going to say is serious, truthful and of great importance. It is a matter of life and death, so pay attention.

II - A Bold Assertion

John 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep**. 8: All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9: **I am the door**: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

1. He is the Door

Christ is the door of the sheep

Jesus is very clear and very bold in claiming that He is the Door. The door is not religion nor baptism nor communion nor ceremonies nor rituals nor achievements nor traditions nor good works, no, the door is Jesus Christ. If you desire to enter the Kingdom of heaven, you must go through Jesus Christ - the Door of the Sheep.

Christ is the door of the under shepherds

Both the sheep and those who seek to shepherd God's sheep must go through this door. No one is fit to be an under shepherd who refuse to enter through the Door.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

Those who do not go through the door, and do not acknowledge that Jesus is the only Door, are not fit to lead the sheep. They are like thieves and robbers who would steal, kill and destroy.

There are those who try to crawl over the fence to take over the flock, claim to be the door or to be a guide to the door. But they are all false prophets promising life, and in the end they only bring death and destruction.

2. He is the Only Door

Notice what He says - "I am **the** door of the sheep", and not "I am **a** door of the the sheep". It is important to note that Jesus is not suggesting that there are many doors to salvation and that He is only one of them. No, Jesus is very clear that He is the only one door into the kingdom of Heaven.

The world does not like these words of Jesus that say ...

John 10:9 **I am the door**: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

"You must enter through the this door or stay outside! You cannot just demand another door!"

In our world, that is not politically correct. To maintain that Jesus is the only door into the kingdom of Heaven is very offensive in a pluralistic society.

But no matter what men may say and think there is only one door; let us not weary ourselves and waste time to find another.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 1:1 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

3. The Door is both Wide and Narrow

The Door is wide in terms of who are invited to enter in

John 10:9 I am the door: by me **if any man** (anyone) **enter in**, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

If any man, that is any one who desires to come in. Whosoever will may come. No matter who you are, you are invited to come in. There are no special qualifications, such as race, gender, education, office, or wealth. There may be just one door but everybody is welcome to come in. There is only one door but all are welcome to enter through the Door.

The Door is narrow in terms of how to come in

The door is wide open but we must enter in His terms, not our terms. **Only one person is allowed at a time** and you must leave everything and drop everything behind **or you would not fit this door**. There must be a leaving of everything behind in order to come through this door. There must be a confession and forsaking of sin and even your own righteousness. There must be repentance and faith.

Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11: The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12: I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14: I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

The Pharisees who were morally upright could not enter in because in their pride they trusted in their own righteousness. But then, a publican who was not known for his uprightness and morality was allowed to enter in because he confessed he had nothing and he simply trusted the mercy of God.

4. The Door is open

The door is wide open and easy access, you don't have to climb over some high and lofty wall.

As Hershel Ford says, "*A door is a direct contrast to a wall. It is hard to climb a wall. It is easy to go through a door. Anyone who wants to get to God doesn't have to climb. He just takes a step.*"

5. It is a Door for the Sheep

Sheep are not the most smart animal on planet earth. They have no wisdom of their own. We will talk more about the sheep when we consider our Lord's statement of being the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.

6. It is a Door meant to be used

I have seen doors with sign above it "This Door Does Not Open, Thank You." The door is useless if it is not used.

But Jesus as the Door has a sign all over it "I am the Door!" What He is saying is, "Come, whosoever will, may enter in." Use the door. You just need to take a step and you are in.

Not only are we permitted to use the door we are even given incentive to enter in which leads me to my last point.

III - A Gracious Assurance

Along with the important announcement and bold assertion, Jesus offers a three-fold assurance or promise to those who enters through the Door:

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, **he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.** 10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

Salvation, security, sustenance and satisfaction.

IV - Conclusion

The whole point of our Lord's statement "I am the door of the sheep" is that He wants each and every one of us to come in. He doesn't want anyone to stay outside. He doesn't want us to waste our time or weary ourselves by looking for another door.

Stop striving to enter the kingdom of Heaven through the door of church membership, or baptism, or communion, or good works, or through human relationships. There is nothing wrong with all of these, but they are not doors into the presence of God. There is but one door to enter into the kingdom of Heaven; through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

There are those who see the Door and they admire the door but are still outside looking in. They do not benefit from the door because they have not taken that step of faith. The door is only a helpful thing if it is used.

Every One is Invited and Welcome

What wonderful things await you on the other side of that door! It will open to any one who will turn their back on their sins and walk in. And oh, what marvelous things await you on the other side of that door. Is He your Savior today? Your response Jesus Christ as the Door determines your eternal destiny!

AMEN!