

John 10:7–10

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

I am the Door **John 10:7-10**

INTRO:

When I was in my late teens and early twenties, it was popular to wear “Jesus buttons.” These buttons were like bumper stickers for people. By far the most popular button said simply “One Way!” It was saying there is only one way to get to heaven. The only way to heaven is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. I Am the Door (v. 7-9)

II. I Give Life (v. 10)

I. I Am the Door (v. 7-9)

A. ***“Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I AM the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I Am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”(John 10:7-9).***

1. Jesus returned to the Word Picture in **verses 1-5**. He underlined how He is the only way into the people of God. Later, He would say in **John 14:6**, ***“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”***

Jesus is the only way to God. Remember in the Garden of Eden the way to God was blocked by sin. Because Adam and Eve sinned there could be no access and no fellowship with the holy God Who made us. Jesus came and Jesus died

so that we can approach God directly. Ultimately, He accomplished this in His cross.

2. Thinking in terms of the picture our Lord drew in **verses 1-5**, we understand the sheepfold was a place of refuge and protection for the sheep. The sheepfold was where the ***“true sheep”*** abide. If we want to be one of the sheep of the shepherd, we must go through the door; the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. The Lord Jesus was not the first nor will He be the last to claim to provide a way into the covenant family of God. Jesus told us who the others are.

(v.8) *“All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.”*

If you are the door, who are all the others who have come saying they were the way to God? They are the ***“thieves and the robbers.”*** They are the ones who have come to satisfy their own desires and accomplish their own goals and not do the will of the Father Who is the God of the sheep.

1. There others who claimed to have been sent by God to open the door of access to God. Jesus said these are ***“the thieves and the robbers.”*** We can identify some of these as we think back over Israel’s history. There were evil kings and false prophets who sought to lead God’s people. While many paid heed, the true sheep, the remnant did not respond.

2. There is a second distinguishing mark of those robbers and thieves. Thieves and robbers do not enter through the door. When we put this in the immediate context in which Jesus taught, we understand who the culprits were in the Lord’s time. There were the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. Both parties claimed to speak for God. Neither group led the people of God into the safety of the fold.

C. The third thing we need to understand about Christ being the door is the benefits of entering through Him.

(v.9) *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”*

1. The first benefit of entering God’s sheepfold through the door is we shall be saved. Often we are so enamored of the picture that we forget that the point goes beyond the illustration. In the picture of the sheep and the sheep fold it meant that the sheep would be saved from the wolves or lions that wanted to kill and devour the sheep. The issue is obviously more than deliverance from physical death. We are being delivered from something that is far more dangerous than wolves or lions. The angel spoke of that peril when he spoke to Joseph before the Lord’s birth and said to him, ***“She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*** (Matthew 1:21).

The peril that we need to be delivered from is our sins! This is because God is a holy God and He must judge sin. He hates sin and we are in sin. Unless someone die and pay the penalty of our sin we would be condemned to eternal judgment in the lake of fire. Jesus came and died to deliver us from our sin. We must enter into relationship with God through the Lord Jesus alone. He is the only door to deliverance from our sin! He is the door to safety and forgiveness of sin.

2. The second benefit is continual access to the fold and God Himself.

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Some try to find here some idea of leaving Judaism and entering Christianity. Look at the statement carefully. The idea of going in and out of the fold is constant access to the security and comfort of the fold as well as access to the provisions for the sheep (pasture).

3. He who saved us granted us total access to fellowship with and the protection of our eternal God.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

4. He also promised to provide for us His sheep. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

II. I Give Life (v. 10)

A. In **verse 10**, we find a summary of what our Lord has been teaching us.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

B. He focused first on the motivation of the other guys. Their desire is to steal, kill, and destroy. They don't really care about the welfare of the sheep. All they care about is what's in it for them. As a result the sheep suffer.

C. Jesus, on the other hand, has come that the sheep might have life and have it beyond what is necessary. The Greek word here is not so much overflowing, but all that we need and then some!

1. Some find in this verse a reference to some esoteric life filled with miracles, signs, wonders, health, wealth, and prosperity. This “*abundant life*” is something mysterious and available only for the spiritual elite. Look again at the text, who is this life for? Jesus came to bring it to all the sheep.

2. If you take out your concordance and look up every reference to life in the Gospel of John, you would find an unmistakable pattern. The Life that Jesus is talking about is not a life abundant in sign gifts and mysterious blessings. He is talking about eternal life. Let me show you what I mean by taking you to His prayer in **John 17**.

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify You, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent’” (John 17:1-3).

The life the Lord Jesus came to give us is eternal life, a life eternal in quantity as well as quality. It is a life in the presence of our God.

3. Have you come to the Shepherd? Have you been saved?

Hymn #306 *Jesus Saves!*