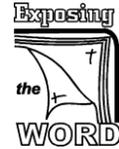




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21- I AM the Door John 10:7-10

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. 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.

In the last session we discussed a community sheep pen into which the shepherd would lead his flock at night to be protected by the porter of the gate. This session we talk about a different kind of sheep fold. One set up in the country side where the shepherd would lay across the door the prevent harm. The Shepherd literally became the door.

Doors are used in our society for access. It has been said that doors symbolize the difference between barbarism and civilization..., in a world of the savage there are no doors.

We often speak of opportunity as an open door and when something doesn't work out we refer to it as the door being closed. Jesus refers to Himself here as the Door.

I- Background:

As we have stated there are two kinds of sheepfolds that are mentioned here in our text.

In Joh 10:2-3 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

This is the community sheep fold. All the sheep of a village would be brought

together and placed in the fence for the night. The communal fold were protected by a strong door with the guard, here called the porter, holding the keys.

Joh 10:7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

This was a simple structure found on the pastures. Hillside sheepfolds were simple walls with an opening but no door. At night the shepherd would lie down and literally become the door. No sheep could get out except over the shepherd.

II- I AM the Door:

With this background Jesus says that He is the door. What does this say to us about Him and our relationship to Him?

1- A Door Allows Access- Joh 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.

Someone has said that this door is not a prison door but a door to freedom.

Eph 2:18-19 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

We have access to God and to the very throne room of the Father by the Door.

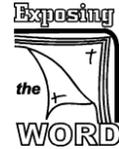
2- The Doors Means Safety and Peace. Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Our doors are on our homes to protect and provide security from intrusion.



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In *Rev 21:25; 27* we see that in the future there will be doors but they are not shut. *Rev 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.* The reason is found in *Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

What will bring this peace and safety? What can give us peace and safety today? Jesus told us that He came that we might have life more abundantly. *John 10:10b.* Satan would steal and kill. Notice the contrast between access through Christ and all of the others.

He came that we might go in and out and have access. All others steal, kill, and destroy. There is only hope is Christ. All others who claim they have the way Jesus compared to robbers and thieves.

William Barclay said:

Jesus was referring to these adventures who were continually arising in Palestine and promising that if people would follow them, they would bring in the golden age. All these claimants were revolutionaries and insurrectionists. They believed that we would have to wade through blood to the golden age. At this very time Josephus speaks of there being then thousand disorders in Judea; tumults caused by men of war. (William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible, The Gospel of John, p.68*)

A bank robber steals money, burglars steal our jewels, but anyone who teaches any other way than Jesus for salvation steal the souls of man. *Prov 16:25 "There is a way*

that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. "

How can we enter the fold of God? We cannot enter through baptism, water cannot save. We cannot enter through church membership; this is the wrong role to have our name on for salvation if it is the only role. We cannot enter through good works. We cannot enter by buying our way in, heaven is not for sale. Man cannot get into the fold of God any way but through the door. Now who is the Door? Christ.

May I say the door is crimson red? Any attempt to enter heaven any other way is to trample the blood of Christ.

III- What If The Door Was Shut?

For this we need to go to the story of Noah and the flood. The flood was the judgment of God on sin. God told Noah to build an ark. This ark was a type of Christ and was for safety from the judgment. The way into the ark was, you guessed it, **a door.**

Gen 6:16-17 "A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die."

God preserved Noah and his family in the ark. The Lord shut the door to all outside.

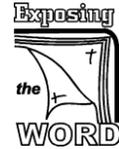
Gen 7:15-17 "And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters... "



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Gen 7:21-23 *"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark."*

IV- How does this apply to us.

Notice **2 Peter 2:4-5** *" For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly..."*

Peter goes on to say that judgment will come. What if God shut the door today on you?

V- Open Door:

Rev 3:8 *" I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it..."* Christ says to the church of Philadelphia that they have an open door to spread the Gospel. May I say we have an open door set before us as well? Look at this little story to open the window of our heart.

The alarm bell rang one day in school and Angelo recognized it as a fire alarm. his desk was next to the door so he hurried out into the yard. The next day the principals sent for him and ask, "You were near the big

door yesterday, why did you not hold it open for others to get out?" He gulped, and explained that Tom was the door monitor. The principal said, "You knew the door needed to be held open and you did not, the next time serve where you are."

My friends, Christ is the door but we need to hold it open for the world to get in through and out of the world. Are you holding the door open?

VI- Our Hope!

Christ gives us access into the throne room of God now and a hope of heaven. Catherine Marshall tells this story in *A Man Called Peter*.

The scene was etched forever on my mind- Peter lying on the stretcher where the two orderlies had put him down for a moment, while the ambulance waited just outside the front door. Peter looked up at me and smiled through the pain, his eyes full of tenderness, and I leaned close to him and said, "Darling, I'll see you in the morning." As I stood looking out toward that far horizon, I knew that those words would go singing in my heart down all the years..."See you, Darling, see you in the morning."

Or as the hymn writer wrote:

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus, blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lead on Jesus name.

The way of the cross leads home!