

# The Great I Am

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## I Am The Door

(Jn 10:1-10)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am"
  - a. Jesus, as we saw in the first lesson, is the great I Am.
    - i. **Jn 8:58** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."<sup>1</sup>
  - b. As we looked over the last two weeks Jesus has made some amazing claims.
    - i. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."
      1. **Jn 6:35** "...I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
    - ii. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
      1. **Jn 8:12** "...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
  - c. Today we will look at the third great "I Am" statement.
    - i. "I Am The Door"
      1. **Jn 10:7** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."
3. Things to keep in mind.
  - a. Shepherds would travel with their sheep long distances sometimes.
    - i. When this occurred they would need places to stay during the night for protection.
    - ii. These places were called sheepfolds.
  - b. Sheepfolds
    - i. This was typically a large circular holding area for sheep that was encompassed by very large stonewalls and had no roof.
      1. It usually could house several herds.
      2. The shepherds did not stay here but in bunk houses next door.
    - ii. At the door a "doorkeeper" was place for additional protection.
      1. Thieves and robbers tried to still sheep from time to time.
        - a. One would climb the wall to get in instead of going through the door.
        - b. "the current criminal practice was to climb over the wall, slaughter as many sheep as possible before detection, and throw them to accomplices outside..." (<http://goo.gl/2Tcbz>)
      2. Thus the need for a vigilant doorkeeper.
  - c. Sheep
    - i. They didn't follow just any shepherd but knew their shepherds voice.
      1. They investigated and discerned who their shepherd was and followed him.
4. This is the knowledge Jesus is using to get His point across concerning Himself.
  - a. He is not the doorkeeper but rather the door.
  - b. This interesting comparison demands further investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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## I. I Am The Door

### A. Doors

1. "a usually swinging or sliding barrier by which an entry is closed and opened also : a similar part of a piece of furniture" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)

### B. Jesus the barrier

1. Most do not normally consider Jesus to be a barrier but that is exactly what He is to so many wanting to reach the Father.
  - i. Today you hear people all the time saying things like "God loves us so much He "can't" keep any away from heaven and Him."
2. The truth is the Father doesn't have to, because Jesus is the barrier/door between God and people now.
  - i. **Jn 14:6** "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
  - ii. **Ep 2:18** "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."
3. Jesus is the barrier/door to the Father in this sense...
  - i. He doesn't allow the unfaithful ie those that don't believe in God and keep His Word.
    - a. **He 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
    - b. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

### C. Jesus the opening

1. When one "does the will of the Father" Jesus, the door, opens.
  - i. **Jn 10:9** "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."
2. When one "knocks" Jesus, the door, opens.
  - i. **Mt 7:8** "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."
3. When one "keeps His Word and does not deny His name" Jesus, the door, stays open.
  - i. **Rv 3:8** "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."

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## II. The Door Leads To Good Things

- A. There are two basic "good things" one finds going through the Door
  - 1. First, everyone finds safety in that...
    - i. We no longer are slaves of sin.
      - a. **Ro 6:17-18** "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."
    - ii. We never will fall if we strive for perfection.
      - a. **II Pt 1:10** "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."
      - b. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
  - 2. Second, everyone finds substance in that...
    - i. We will be filled with righteousness.
      - a. **Jn 6:35** "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
    - ii. We will be filled with eternal life.
      - a. **I Jn 5:13** "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."
- B. No one will find "bad things" who go through Jesus the door
  - 1. This is not to say hard time will not happen.
    - i. **II Ti 3:12** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"
  - 2. But that we can overcome joyfully that which we go through.
    - i. **Ja 1:2** "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds"

## CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren for all the faithful who have gone through the door here today let us focus on the "good things" Jesus the door offers and hold fast to Him who is perfect in all ways.
  - a.
- 2. Question: Have you gone through the Door?
  - a. If yes continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not, why not?

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### 3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
  - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
  - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**