

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

—John 1:14

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

—John 20:30-31

In John 10, Jesus says, “**I am the door of the sheep**” (v. 7). By this statement Jesus once again affirms that He is God and that by believing in Him you may have life in His name. The use of the door metaphor is interesting and profound. The context is all about sheep and shepherds. Sheep were animals that were/are assumed to be unintelligent, dependent, and needy. They are cared for by a shepherd who—in those days, as today—were on the lowest rung on the social ladder. Jesus reaches to the lowest level of human society (shepherds) and the animal kingdom (sheep) to teach exalted and grand truth.

The picture of sheep and shepherds—in both good and bad light—is referenced in the Bible over three hundred times. It is a ubiquitous metaphor for two reasons. First, it was a picture that everyone understood and recognized from their daily life in the days when the Bible was being written. In an agrarian society, sheep were everywhere. They were business assets. They provided wool for clothing and, as needed, meat for food. Second, an understanding of the life of sheep and their shepherds also provided a precise and penetrating description of all of us.

- **Psalm 100:3** – “*Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*”
- **1 Peter 2:25** – “*For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.*”
- **Mark 6:34** – “*When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.*”
- **Matthew 9:36** – “*Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*”

### I AM THE DOOR

**John 10:9** – “*I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*”

John 10:9 is an “**if/then**” statement. This is commonly known as a conditional statement. The “if” clause establishes the premise that, if matched, will result in an action or consequence. Pretty simple and very profound.

- **IF:** “anyone enters through Me.” The call of Christ is simple. John 12:46 states, “*I have come as Light into the world, so that no one who believes in Me will remain in darkness.*” Entering “through Me” requires one thing: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:31).
- **THEN:** “*he will be saved, will go in and out and find pasture.*” These three consequences of belief are statements of certainty. They are facts. And these facts are the focus of our study.

“**He will be saved . . .**”

Saved from what? In the context of John 10, the answer is that we will be saved from the deception, harm, injury, and death from false teachers and fake or misleading gospel messages. As usual, Jesus uses the most graphic, unflattering descriptions of those who target people to use and abuse them with false religion and false gospel messages for their own satisfaction and gain. Jesus knew that there are, and always will be, those who prey on weak and needy people. He uses the picture of

sheep. Apart from Christ we are victims of spiritual predators and susceptible to the designs of those who would harm us and never think twice about it.

- **10:1** – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.”*
- **10:8** – *“All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.”*
- **10:10** – *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy . . . .”*

The result of the influence and interaction with these spiritual robbers and thieves is death, exploitation without pity, slavery, subjugation to other men’s appetites, and even a deep ignorance that this is even happening. This is the darkness that Isaiah so often warned about. Jesus Christ is the light of the world piercing that darkness and He is also the door through which, upon entry, you can find safety and salvation from the terrible consequences of that darkness.

If you are saved, a gang of spiritual thieves and robbers have no hold on you. You owe them no attention, respect, or regard. Their voice is mute in your life. Your life and your soul are safe from the threat they pose. Their voice has no register in your life. You cannot be drawn away by them because they have no access to you. You have been saved.

This is what Christ saved us from. You are saved from what happens outside the door. The other side of the discussion is what is on the inside of the door. What are you saved to?

**“ . . . will go in and out . . . ”**

Entering through Jesus Christ transforms you from a man to a lamb! You are transformed from a victim of false religion and false gospel to one of the sheep in the sheepfold of the Great Shepherd! This is the goal—the height of existence on this earth. This is the transforming power of the door, Jesus Christ. You are now in His flock.

When we enter through the door (belief in Jesus Christ), we do not enter into confining custody or imprisonment. It is entry into a place of intimacy, care, and security under the constant loving and watchful eye of a shepherd—the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **2 Peter 1:10–11** – *“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; for in doing these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”*

Throughout the first 10 verses of John 10, we see clear descriptions of this abundant life (John 10:10) through belief in Jesus Christ.

- **He speaks to us** (v. 3 – *“the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name”*). This is not a nod to mystical “the Lord spoke to me” notions. His will is known through the Word of God, and we are taught and led by the Holy Spirit—all available to those who enter by the door.
- **He knows us** (v. 3 – *“he calls his own sheep by name”*). This describes intimate relationship with the God of the universe, our creator. As Isaiah 40:11 states, *“Like a shepherd He will shepherd His flock; in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.”*
- **He goes before us** (v. 3 – *“[He] leads them out”*). There is such implicit trust and submission that we don’t need a stick to the back side to motivate and move us. We can follow Him willingly and eagerly—but follow we must. He leads us!
- **We are His** (v. 4 – *“When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice”*). He is yours. You are His. He has chosen to lead, feed, protect, and care for you!
- **We are sealed** (v. 5 – *“A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers”*). We will not fall for the allure or tricks of a robber or

thief. We are immune to the violence of robbers and thieves. The voice of the stranger has no hold or influence on you.

**“ . . . you will find pasture.”**

The door is the gateway to green pastures—an amazing description of life on this earth, before eternity, in His flock of sheep. The more we understand what it means to “find pasture” through Jesus Christ, the less concern and anxiety we will have over the affairs of this world.

Psalm 23 points to the privileged, challenging, and blessed (happy) life of sheep on this earth under a good shepherd. It is not an easy life but there is no better life. Psalm 23 is a poem by a shepherd about being sheep in the pastures under the care and provision of the Lord with eleven descriptions of that life.

#### Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He  
makes me lie down  
in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet  
waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my  
soul; He guides me in  
the paths of  
righteousness For His  
name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even  
though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow  
of death, I fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff,  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table  
before me in the presence  
of my enemies;  
You have anointed my  
head with oil; My cup  
overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely  
goodness and  
lovingkindness will follow  
me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord forever.*

#### 1. Satisfaction (“I shall not want”)

- **Luke 12:31–32** – “But seek His kingdom, and these things will be provided to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.”
- **Psalm 84:11** – “For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; He withholds no good thing from those who walk with integrity.”

#### 2. Contentment (“He makes me lie down in green pastures”)

- **Ezekiel 34:13–14** – “I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing place will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down in a good grazing place and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.”

#### 3. Sustaining Care (“He leads me beside quiet [still] waters”)

- **John 4:13–14** – “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.’”
- **Psalm 36:7–9** – “How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.”
- **Psalm 63:1** – “God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and exhausted land where there is no water.”

#### 4. Restored Soul (“He restores my soul”)

- **Psalm 56:13** – “For You have delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.”

#### 5. Directed Steps (“He guides me in the paths of righteousness”)

- **Psalm 18:35–36** – “You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your gentleness makes me great. You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped.”
- **Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”
- **Psalm 17:5** – “My steps have held to Your paths. My feet have not slipped.”

#### 6. Peace (“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me”).

- **Psalm 46:1–3** – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very ready help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth shakes and the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.”*
- 7. Comfort** (*“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me”*)
- **Revelation 3:19** – *“Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.”*
  - **Hebrews 12:5–6** – *“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are punished by Him; for whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He punishes every son whom He accepts.”*
- 8. Tranquility** (*“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”*)
- **Psalm 31:19–21** – *“How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have performed for those who take refuge in You, before the sons of mankind! You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of mankind; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown His marvelous faithfulness to me in a besieged city.”*
- 9. Protection** (*“You have anointed my head with oil”*)
- **2 Corinthians 1:21–22** – *“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”*
- 10. Abundance** (*“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life”*)
- **Psalm 116:7–8** – *“Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has dealt generously with you. For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.”*
- 11. Eternal Life** (*“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”*)
- **John 5:24** – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*

**The Psalmist provides a description of two possible responses:**

- **Psalm 95:6–8** – *“Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts . . .”*

**Additional Resources:**

→ *“I am the Door,”* a sermon by John MacArthur on Jul 27, 2014, accessible here:

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/43-52/i-am-the-door>

→ *“A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23,”* by W. Phillip Keller

→ *The Treasury of David*, by Charles H. Spurgeon – the chapter on Psalm 23 is refreshing and practical.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What are your obligations as a lamb in the flock of Jesus Christ in response to Psalm 23?
2. Psalm 95:6 describes the response to life in the pasture. What are you thankful for as you consider the privileged life of sheep?
3. What are some examples of the shepherd in Psalm 23 that are applicable in your own shepherding of your family and others in the church?

**Audio, video, and handouts for this session:** [www.gracechurch.org/motw](http://www.gracechurch.org/motw)

**Next meeting:** February 5 – *“The Bible Is Complete”* (Brad Klassen)

**FOR FURTHER  
CONSIDERATION**