

JESUS IS THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP

John 10:1-10

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 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. 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."

To put this passage of Scripture in context, Jesus is speaking to the Jews but was primarily speaking to the Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees. This is right after Jesus had healed a man who was blind his whole life. He was born blind. The man who was blind and was healed by Jesus was then brought to the Pharisees. The Pharisees, in spite of Jesus giving sight to the blind man, said that Jesus is not of God because He is a sinner, for He healed him on the Sabbath. The Pharisees rebuked the blind man who was healed by Jesus and said, "Give God the glory! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." (9:25) Shortly afterwards, Jesus asked the once blind man, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him."

This story in time, according to the sequence of events written by the Apostle John, who was one of Jesus' disciples, follows Jesus turning the pitchers of water into wine at a wedding, Jesus had told Nicodemus that "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus had further said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the

name of the only begotten Son of God." (**John 3:16-18**) So Jesus had performed some miracles, He said one must be born-again to see the kingdom of God, and if one who believes on the Son of God they will have everlasting life. Jesus said to the healed blind man that **He** is the Son of God. Then [the healed blind man] said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him."

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Why are they condemned? Jesus explained, "And this is the condemnation, that the light [that's Jesus. He also said He is the light of the world later in **John 8:12**] has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.'" (**John 3:19-21**) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

The Apostle Paul explained that the Pharisees, the Jewish leaders had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. Not according to truth. (**Romans 10:2**) Jesus even had stated clearly, "I AM the Truth!" when He had said, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father but except through Me." (**John 14:6**) Paul further said that the Pharisees are ignorant of **God's Righteousness** and were seeking to establish their own righteousness. Then Paul says, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (**Romans 10:4**) Just as Jesus had said in **Matthew 5:17**, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." In whatever way you may be looking for direction, Jesus IS the Way. The Jews were locked in on doing things their way, according to the law. Jesus said, and says to us now, "I AM the Way. Follow Me!

If you're one of those people who like to peak at the ending of a book before you read it, if you like to read the reviews of a movie before you see it, then here's a teaser, if you will, about where this is heading. JESUS, also known as Yehoshua in Hebrew, Yeshua in Aramaic, Iesous in Greek, is the Son of God, the Christ, the Savior of the world to all who will believe, was born of a virgin named Mary, through the Holy Spirit of God, was born in a manger in Bethlehem, was raised in Nazareth, which is of the region of Galilee, was tempted of the devil and overcame Him by living a perfect, sinless life, died on a cross for our sins (to all who will believe), and raised from the dead on the third day, and has paved the way for us too to have eternal life, once again, to all who will believe on HIM. Jesus did not die in vain, for no good reason, just to show His

commitment to the cause of leading us to live a life of good morals, did He?

No! Jesus showed that He was the Son of God, through healings and miracles, He said you must be born again to see the kingdom of God, He said you must believe on the Son of God to inherit eternal life (to see the kingdom of God), and He said He IS the Son of God. He died on a cross so that the Righteousness of God could be revealed to us that we can be justified and forgiven of our sins against God, **through the Righteousness of Jesus**, who took on the penalty of death for us. And then, He said that He alone is the door of the sheep that leads to the sheepfold of God Himself, into His Kingdom that will last for all of eternity. God Almighty, the doorkeeper, allows all who enter through the door, who is Jesus the Christ, to enter into His eternal kingdom. Jesus is the Door of all His sheep!

Hopefully none of you all here needed to get that sneak preview since I hope that each person here today already knows that Jesus is the only Way, that Jesus alone is the Door which we must go through, that Jesus alone paid the penalty of death for us for the sins that we have committed against God and the laws of God. If you haven't yet, today is that day to say to Jesus, "Yes, Jesus, save me, I believe you died for my sins. Save me today from my sins against God. And from here on out I will trust You Jesus as my Lord and Savior so that I may be born again as Jesus said and start my new life in You Lord Jesus, living my life so that I please You and follow You. Save me Lord Jesus!"

The religious leaders, not all of them, but most of them, weren't looking for a Savior. They were looking to save themselves. As mentioned, Jesus turned water into wine, healed a dying boy, a nobleman's son in Capernaum. Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears **My word and believes in Him who sent Me** has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (**John 5:24**) Anytime Jesus said "most assuredly", or in the King James version it is "verily, verily", you can be 100% assured that what He is saying not only is very important but also that it is absolute and objective truth. Meaning there is no wiggle room for some other interpretation or way that He could say it. Most assuredly, Jesus said. Listen to My Word for it comes straight from the Father Himself. He then said, "**Most assuredly**, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."

The voice of Jesus. "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his

voice." Do you hear voice of the Shepherd. "[A]nd the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." In this time, with all the turmoil that swirls around us, the evil that seems at times to get more and more prevalent, stronger and more fierce, who can we turn to? Who can we trust? Who can lead this world, this nation, this community into the peace and safety that we all long for? Our community leaders? Our state representatives? Our nations appointed leaders? Jesus said the great commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

If Jesus truly is our Savior, if Jesus truly is our Lord, and **JESUS IS THE LORD**, He is of God, and He says His sheep follow him, for they know his voice, then who do we follow in all of this chaos in this world? You think you might need a weapon, such as a gun or a big knife to take care of yourself? You may say, "yes, wisdom dictates that. Look around at the lawlessness." Jesus, Paul, and all of the Apostles, all of the prophets, priests, and men of God did not carry weapons did they? But what about God leading the Israelites to kill the Midianites, Amorites, and all the other -ites. God was specifically leading Israel to the promised land and was bringing judgment upon all of those nations. God is not leading this country or any other in the way He led the Israelites. And for the record, this is not and has never been a Christian nation. It is said that this country was founded on Christian principles. Guess what, the Jews were leading Israel in Christian principles too at the time of Jesus. But, they left out the most important ingredient. JESUS! There is no such thing as Christian-like. You're even a Christian or not. You're either a Christian nation or you're not. Disagree if you like, but most of the founding founders were at best deists.

According to one definition, deism is "the philosophical position and rationalistic theology that rejects revelation as a source of divine knowledge, and asserts that empirical reason and observation of the natural world are exclusively logical, reliable, and sufficient to determine the existence of a Supreme Being as the creator of the universe. Deism is also defined as the belief in the existence of God solely based on rational thought, without any reliance on revealed religions or religious authority." If you ever have the time you can look at letters written by the first presidents of the United States (for example, George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson-the first three presidents of this country) and they were not just being polite towards non-Christians in their thoughts about Jesus as the Christ. They flat out rejected Him. They were all about morals and order-but Jesus? No! There is no mention of Jesus in our nations founding documents. Why is that a problem? Don't need revelations for God to lead a nation? This is what the Apostle Paul prayed for the

Ephesian church in **Ephesians 1:17-22**, "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and **revelation in the knowledge of Him**, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ** when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Paul says in **1 Corinthians 1:30-31**, "But of [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us **wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption**—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.""

Who can you trust but in Jesus, who is the door of the sheep, the Shepherd of the sheep, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When Jesus asked Peter who he thought Jesus was he said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not **revealed this to you**, but My Father who is in heaven." Yes, each of us needs it revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God." **Psalm 118:8** says, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." **Reveal to each one here Heavenly Father that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world**

It must begin with each one of us. As the saying goes, it only takes a spark to get a fire going. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. That is usually used spoken of in a negative way saying the same as "one bad apple spoils the bunch." But it can also be that one person led by Jesus can lead a whole flock behind them. Revival, an Awakening, a changing of the ways in this country, in our state, in this city, in our local environment depends on each of us to find the door, to find Jesus, and then to begin letting Him lead us where He goes. Jesus went about healing the sick and lame and diseased. A lot more than what I had previously mentioned. He even raised at least a couple of people from the dead. Jesus preached the good news of His Kingdom, that He is the Way. We are called, that is all of us, to be His light in this dark world. To live that life abundantly bearing fruit for His kingdom. God doesn't expect us to show up in heaven empty handed so to speak. He wants us to show up ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb with a train dragging behind us of fruit that He'll harvest for His kingdom and glory. That fruit being all those you have encouraged along the way, those who you've prayed for, those you've helped out when they needed a friend, those you've shared the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to.

"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." The main thing the enemy, the devil wants to steal from us is the truth in the gospel of Jesus Christ. If he can get us believing we just need to all be good people to have peace on earth then he has succeeded greatly. There are certainly plenty of thieves out and about. Many are in the government we erroneously want to put our trust in. There are plenty of thieves who live amongst us. But, the true enemy is in the spiritual realm. The enemy that wants to steal the truth, our hope, and our confidence in Jesus Christ our Lord. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) Trust in the Lord, that's Jesus. He will direct our path. Not government, not morals, not school systems, nor even religious institutions; But Jesus!