**I Am THe Door**

John 10:7-9

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.” NKJV

From time immemorial, doors have been used to serve several purposes. A principal reason for them is to provide a point of separation. Who you are depends on which side of the door you are on. A second reason is to use them for security. What is behind the door may be there to keep it from being stolen or harmed. Where human beings are involved, security includes the idea of safety. The story of Lot in Genesis 19 includes the use of the door of Lot’s house as the means of keeping two angelic messengers safe from a crowd that was committed to harming them.

If you have ever wondered if our God has a sense of humor. Solomon answers this question in Proverbs 26:14. *As a door turns on its hinges,*

*So does the lazy man on his bed.* I can plainly take away the truth from this that God knows all about us, even our sleeping habits. Imagine standing in from of God and having Him say to us, “you are so bad, you just toss and turn in your bed, and not because you can’t sleep, but because you are lazy.”

Jesus separates us from those who are determined to live in sin. Jesus declares that if we enter the fold by Him, we have been separated from “thieves and robbers.” Jesus describes Himself as the “door of the sheep.” He says that if we pass through Him, we will be saved and will find pasture (food and a safe place). Jesus points out that we are safe provided we don’t listen to other voices. This is a very real issue. Jesus in Matthew 7:13 states that the door (gate) that leads to eternal life is a narrow entrance and that few will find it. He gives this in contrast to the gate that leads to condemnation which is wide, and most people will choose it. Jesus makes it plain that there will not be an opportunity for a last minute dash for the door of salvation if we have lived a life of inequity (sin) See Luke 13:25. Simply put, if I am following Christ, this must be exhibited by my determination to put away sin or when I come to door to enter for salvation, I will find myself left on the wrong side of the door.

In John 10:1-5, Jesus shows that those who are offer alternative ways to salvation by looking for other doors or by following another shepherd are going to be disappointed. "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 (John 10:1-3). One of the points Jesus is making is that His sheep won’t listen to the voice of false shepherds. His sheep follow Him and no other shepherd (verses 4,5)

From the time of the beginning of the church the argument has raged over whether Gentiles had to follow the law given through Moses to be a Christian. Acts 14:27 ends this discussion by making it plain that God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. The happiness of other Christians hearing this was large, and it was plain that God was not making faith in Christ dependent on obedience to the laws of the Old Covenant.

Paul the apostle shows us the opening of a door as a permission to preach to people. *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord* (2 Corinthians 2:12). He uses the same idea again in Colossians 4:3 and 1 Corinthians 16:9. We must recognize that when God opens a door for us to preach the word to someone who needs it, we must accept the task and go through the door. It may not be convenient, but our Father is not concerned about convenience.

Go all the way back to the writer of the Psalms and you will find the idea of a door being part of our situation before God*. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter*. (Psalm 118:19-20) Here again it is plain that God is not going to let us come into His presence without our repentance from sin. See also that the Psalmist finds this entrance into the presence of God as a happy event*. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name* (Psalm 100:4).

The fact that Jesus is not explicitly mentioned in these various passages doesn’t change the fact that **He is the Door that leads to life.** We must make sure we are on the correct side of the DOOR. Jesus says the time is coming when the open door will be shut and once shut it will not be opened again (Matthew 25:10). Jesus is the DOOR of the sheep.