

“I am the Door of the Sheep”

John 10:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the gospel according to John, Jesus makes certain claims about Himself. Eight times in the gospel according to John, Jesus said, **‘I AM.’** Seven of those times He included a predicate to that phrase that spoke of His divinity and underscored His claim as Messiah. These statements are the focus of our study. Jesus Christ **declares**:

- ***I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48)***
- ***I am the Light of the World (8:12, 9:5)***
- ***I am the Gate for the Sheep (10:7)***
- ***I am the Good Shepherd (10:11)***
- ***I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)***
- ***I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6)***
- ***I am the True Vine (15:1)***

In these seven sayings of the Savior, the focus is not on what **others** think of Him; instead, the emphasis is upon who **Jesus** declares Himself to be.

Today, we will take a look at the **“I AM”** statement found in **John 10:1-10**. In the passage before us Jesus tells us that **He is the Gate or the Door**. He is the entry point to a relationship with God.

What does this mean? Why is it important? Let’s dig in...

I. The _____ to Jesus’ Saying

John 10 is a favorite passage for most believers. It draws a sketch of the loving care that Jesus brings to the people who belong to Him, those who are the sheep of His pasture. It is a warm and endearing image. **But the words of this chapter are not spoken in a peaceful setting.** Chapter 10 obviously follows chapter 9 in text. It also follows chapter 9 in terms of thought. There is no break between chapter 9 and chapter 10. There’s no time gap. **There’s no change in circumstance.** There is no change in crowd. Jesus continues to speak to the very same people He was speaking to in chapter 9. This is a flowing discourse that comes right out of the real situation in chapter 9. So, there’s really no break, there doesn’t even need to be a chapter break here really. Verse 1 follows immediately verse 41. Jesus is talking to a group of hostile religious leaders called Pharisees who are upset because He healed a poor blind man. The story about this unfortunate beggar is in chapter 9.

Jesus takes advantage of another ‘teaching moment’ to illustrate the blindness of the Pharisees as false shepherds, and of Himself as both the Door and the Good Shepherd. As the Door, Jesus is the one and only way of entrance into salvation. **As the Good Shepherd** He is the one who cares for the sheep and provides for their salvation at the cost of His life. He lays down His life for the sheep. **Both realities bring out strong contrasts.** When Jesus considers Himself as the Door, He brands those who do not use the Door as thieves and robbers. When He thinks of Himself as the Good Shepherd, He contrasts Himself to the evil hireling shepherds.

II. The _____ of Jesus' Saying

A. _____ (10:9a)

We are saved from sin's penalty, the anger of God that separates us from Him and makes us His enemies instead of His sheep. Throughout our lives as Christians, we are increasingly delivered from sin's power. And someday, when we pass into God's holy presence through death, we will be saved from the actual presence of sin. Those who enter through the gate will be saved.

B. _____ (10:9b)

C. _____ (10:9c-10)

A full and abundant life is one of being led by the One who knows us by name. It means life that is full, overflowing, with grace that is more than sufficient for every need. It is a life of contentment and rest, even during challenging circumstances, because we have a Shepherd.

CONCLUSION

I leave you with some principles and practical applications:

- **The Lord Jesus Christ _____ His sheep and they _____ Him.**
- **The Good Shepherd _____ for His sheep.**
- **There is only _____ Door.**
- **You may enter the Door right _____.**

The cross of Christ is the turning point in life and what you do at that point determines where you spend eternity. Will you pass through the Door into eternal life? Those who believe on Jesus Christ enter into eternal life and enjoy God's presence for all eternity. Those who reject Him and refuse to pass through His Door go into eternal separation from Him forever in hell. Your response to Jesus Christ as the Door determines your eternal destiny. Will you walk through that door by faith today and receive His gift of eternal life?