

“The door of the sheep”

John 10:7-9 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep**. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **I am the door**. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

TWO THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS AS “THE DOOR”

1. **“The door” is THE ONLY WAY IN to the sheepfold.**

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved ...

→ “In” to safety. **Psalm 18:1,2** I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Only Jesus makes us THIS safe. Only the Lord provides this sort of safety. He IS that safety!

→ “In” to God’s presence. **Hebrews 10:19-22** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places **by the blood of Jesus**, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, **through his flesh**, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Only Jesus brings us INTO the presence of God. HE is “the door” to “the house of God.”

2. **“The door” is THE ONLY WAY OUT to the pasture.**

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

IN A WAY, THIS SECOND THING IS SAYING THE FIRST THING OVER AGAIN.

→ “Out” where the grass and water is.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.” **[Psalm 23]**

BUT ALSO: **John 10:9,10** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it **abundantly**.

BECAUSE “ABUNDANT LIFE” IS MORE THAN ABUNDANT EATING AND DRINKING.

Jesus said, *“Is not life more than food?”* [Sermon on the Mount] → “Out” where the “good works” are.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand**, that **we should walk in them**.

THREE THINGS TO DO ABOUT JESUS AS “THE DOOR”

a) **“Go in through this door”:** Entrust yourself to Christ.

→ “In” to safety. **Psalm 18:1-3** I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. **I call upon the LORD**, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

FOR EXAMPLE: Saul of Tarsus, a very religious man. **Acts 22:3-8** “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And I answered, **‘Who are you, Lord?’** And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’”

b) "Go out through this door": _____! "Out" to the abundant life.
John 10:9,10 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

b) "Go out through this door": Get to work!

→ Out to where the work (of the gospel) gets accomplished.

E.g. Paul the apostle with a whole new "life work" to do... **Acts 22:9-11** "Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus."

And he began to use his Roman name: Paul. And he became known as "Paul the Apostle." And he referred to himself as "Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God..."

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.

SOMETHING ELSE WE MUST DO.

c) Ask God the Father to give you _____.

The "good works" are prepared beforehand for us. And we need to be prepared for them. How?

SOME OTHER WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST, according to Matthew. **Matthew 7:7-11** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; **knock, and it will be opened to you.** For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and **to the one who knocks it will be opened.** Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give **good things to those who ask him!**"

According to Luke. **Luke 11:13** "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give **the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**"

And also according to Luke, SOME OTHER WORDS OF JESUS: **Acts 1:8** "... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." [In our case: *in London and in all Ontario and Quebec and to the end of the earth.*]

c) Ask God the Father to give you the power of God, the Holy Spirit. As if your "abundant life" depends on it.

NEXT SUNDAY: February 8 "TEEN CHALLENGE SUNDAY"

DIGGING DEEPER

Paul the Apostle, having been converted from Judaism to Christianity, lived the rest of his life with a sincere desire to see his countrymen also believe in Jesus. From the 10th chapter of his *Letter to the Romans*, identify and list the steps involved in a person doing so. In other words, identify and list the steps involved in “entering the sheepfold” through Jesus, who is “the door.”

e.g.

1. **Vs. 3:** a person must submit to God’s righteousness
HINT: You should be able to find at least four more.

Romans 10:1-17

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not **submit to God's righteousness**. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.