



Date: July 3, 2016

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John 10:7-10 *"Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 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."*

While most people in our world think of "the good life" as having a good income, a large and beautiful house, a couple of late-model cars in the garage, being able to take nice vacations, and having a comfortable retirement, Jesus in our text claims to be the door through which His sheep enter to experience the truly *abundant* life. The abundant life has nothing to do with gaining more *stuff*. It has everything to do with being right with God through faith in Jesus Christ and having the hope of eternity spent in His presence.

1. Jesus is the **Only Door** – John 10:7

- The shepherd, during Jesus' time. Would spend the night over the entrance to the sheep pen. No one could come through without him knowing it
- Jesus here doesn't say He is "a" door, but "the" door
- This is an exclusive claim – see John 14:6, Acts 14:12

2. **Anyone Else is a Thief or Robber** – John 10:8

- Referring to those before Him who preyed on the sheep and used them for their selfish ends
- True sheep will follow Him, and He will keep them – vs. 27-28
- There are those who may leave because they were never His sheep – I Jn. 2:19

3. **What Does Jesus Provide as "the Door?"** – John 10:9

- a. Salvation – see John 3:17

Note: This is a *radical* word. For one to be "saved" they need see themselves as hopelessly and helplessly lost. Someone who is doing okay on their own may appreciate good advice or ideas, but they don't really need "saving." One needs saving when without the help of

someone else, death is imminent and certain.

- b. Safety – see the reference to New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:25.
- c. Sustenance – He shows us to good “pasture” – the “abundant life”

4. Jesus’ Purpose vs. Others – John 10:10

Questions:

1. How might some people react to this claim of exclusivity (that is that Jesus is the *only* door and not one of many)? How is it actually *loving* to tell people this?
2. With so many false “shepherds” out there (and there are many), how can you hear clearly the voice of the Shepherd? What is a very distinct possibility for someone who has “left the faith?”
3. What kinds of things does the world promise us? Why, at times, is it so tempting to listen? (the pleasures of sin are for a season...) Finish reading I Cor. 2:9 and thank the Lord for his salvation, safety, and sustenance that He provides. Also, thank Him for what He has prepared for us who love Him.

Prayer: *“Father, thank you for loving us. It is because you first loved us that we can love You in return. It is also our desire to show Your kind of love to others around us- agape love. Help me to have the transformed mind to be able to love in these ways: to seek the best spiritually for those around me, to never give up, to love in practical ways. I pray that others will see the love of Christ in me and give glory to the Father because of it. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen!”*