

Fil-Am Community Church

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“I Am the Gate or Door, depending upon your version of Bible “

John 10:1-10 (NASB) we will get to this is just a minute but let me explain a little first.

To properly understand our text it will be beneficial for us to understand a little bit about sheep-tending in the Middle East.

In the Western world, methods of sheep-tending differ in general w/those in the Middle East. In the West, the Shepherd, along w/a sheep-herding dog or two, usually follows the flock.

But shepherds in the East walk out in front, leading their sheep. In the Holy Land, a shepherd leads his sheep all during the day from pasture to pasture.

Then, in the evening, he calls them to him.

The sheep follow after their shepherd to a watering place & then to the sheep-fold, where they bed down safely through the night.

According to Eastern custom, the pens are always composed of rock, to provide safety from such enemies as thieves and wild animals. They often place sharp thorns or briars on top of the rocks to keep out wolves & other predators.

An opening (gate) is left in the middle of one side of the rock-walled pens. At night the shepherd stands at this entrance & examines each sheep as it enters into the fold.

The shepherd next builds a fire outside the entrance to scare off wild beasts. Then he eats his dinner, and lies down for the night.

He places his body across the entranceway to the pen, satisfied that his sheep are safe--In essence, the shepherd is the gate--& no one or nothing can pass into the sheepfold, unless it walks through him.

In John 10:1-10 we learn that **Jesus is the gate**, & if we will become His sheep we will gain entrance to many wonderful things.

John 10:1-10 (NASB)

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Transition: The 1st thing we receive when we come to Jesus is an:

1. ENTRANCE TO SALVATION

Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, **he shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:9).

The point of Jesus' statement "I am the door" is that the Pharisees were rejecting their only access to God. Jesus later put it another way when He said "I am **the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father but by Me." (John 14:6). That's a sermon a few weeks from now...

"He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11, 12).

Salvation: The common Hebrew words for Salvation, ultimately derived from the root words meaning; Width, Spacious, Freedom from constraint...
Hence Deliverance!

When we come to Jesus we are both saved from something & saved for something, let's look at little closer at what we are saved from.

We are saved from:

a. **Sin**

We are saved from sin's **penalty** & also its **power**.

In 2 Cor. 5:19 we learn that for those who have come to Christ God is no longer counting our sins against us.

And 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!"

When we come to Jesus we leave our sinful life behind us.

Everything that we have done in the past--thoughts we shouldn't have had, things we shouldn't have done, words we shouldn't have said--**all are wiped away** from our record when we come to Jesus Christ.

This is an issue that **haunts many believers today** as we walk around with all the spiritual baggage of our past, but that is a sermon I am working on and will deliver in the very near future.

The bottom line is there is nothing that you have ever done that is beyond God's forgiveness.

When we come to Jesus we are saved from **all our sin**.

Another thing we are saved from is;

b. Death

We are not saved from physical death. But what we are concerned about is what happens after physical death.

The Bible teaches us that those who reject Christ will be experiencing spiritual death for eternity.

But those who are in Christ will never experience spiritual death, but will be spiritually alive forever.

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

John 8:51 *"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."* (This again is talking about Spiritual death)

The Christian needs to understand that his/her physical death is better understood not as death, but as rebirth.

We are born **once physically**, we are **born again spiritually** when we accept Jesus, & we are born into eternity when we pass from this life.

We are not really dying; we are actually living life in its fullest sense for the very first time.

We are not simply saved from sin, death, but God has a purpose for our lives--**He has saved us for some very wonderful things**. One of the things he has saved us for is;

c. Holiness

Holiness or Sanctification means to make Holy, Hebrew (qds) and Greek (hagias) roots represented, Hallowed, Consecrated, to dedicate or set apart from the Common, or used as devoted to some divine purpose.

God expects us, as saved people, to live **lives of purity**.

1 Pet 1:15-16 "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy.""

Our common goal should be to become **more & more like Christ**.

God doesn't say, "Now that you're saved, just keep living like you always have."

Instead He calls us to a **higher standard**--As Christians we are not to give in to the flesh as those in the world do.

Remember there is nothing wrong with being **a baby**, but there is something wrong with **staying a baby**. We are now called to a higher standard...

The next time you start to watch a movie, or listen to some music, or go out on the town--ask yourself this simple question--"**Would I do** this if Jesus were right here beside me?"

And if your answer is "No", then you know that this particular activity doesn't fit in with the life of holiness God calls us to.

Remember Jesus is always right there beside us... whether we know it or not.

You might ask, "Do you expect me to give up things in my life that don't live up to God's standards?"

And the answer is, **it doesn't matter what I expect**, what matters is what God expects, what does it say in your **Bible?**

God has saved us so that we might become imitators of His holiness.

d. Eternal Life

Again, in John 5:24 ""I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has **eternal life**."

Matthew 25:46 (NASB)

*These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into **eternal life**.*

Matthew 19:29 (NASB)

*And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit **eternal life**.*

John 3:16 (NASB)

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have **eternal life**.*

e. Heaven

In Phil 3:20 "*our citizenship is in heaven*"

We need to understand as citizens of Heaven we are referred to as Christians.

Here is a poem by an unknown author about Christianity, tell me do you see yourself in any of the below liens?

“What is Christianity?”

In the Home it is Kindness

In the Business it is Honesty

In Society it is Courtesy

In the Workplace it is Fairness

Toward the Unfortunate it is Pity

Toward the Weak it is Help

Toward the Wicked it is Resistance

Toward the Strong it is Trust

Toward the Fortunate it is Congratulations

Toward the Repentant it is Forgiveness

Toward the Lost it is Salvation

Toward God it is Reverence and Love.

Saints we need to remember, this world is not my home I'm just passing through we're only here for a moment, but we'll be in **heaven forever**.

God has saved us **both from & for some things**.

Have you come through the **gate of salvation**?

Have you **accepted Jesus Christ** into your life?

Have you left the **old life behind** & started anew?

You can, if you'll only **cross through** the gate.

Another thing we notice is that Jesus is the:

2. ENTRANCE TO SECURITY

v.9 " *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* "(No need to worry)

Jesus was a living door, a talking door, a speaking door who invites us in:

- Won't you come in?

- Won't you come in to my Father's house?
- Won't you come into my Father's love?
- Won't you come into my Father's family?

Jesus is a living door, a living door who speaks and invites us to come into the Father's house and into the Father's family and into the Father's eternity which can begin **RIGHT NOW, HERE TODAY.**

I have been thinking about what a door to an office represents. Would you please imagine the door to my office at our church?

When the door to my office closed, people normally don't come in very easily. When the door is closed, it gives a message: "Stay away. I am busy, I'm preoccupied"

If, on the other hand, I leave the door wide open, everyone knows that they can stick their head in my office and say, "Hi there" or that they can feel free to walk right in and say, "Pastor Dave do you have a moment?"

But let's take it a step further and say that I personally am the door and I am personally standing there in the doorway and I am personally addressing you and everybody that comes along by saying:

"Good morning. Won't you come in to chat? What's going on in your life right now? Won't you come in?" Almost all of you would come in and chat.

Saints that is the way it is with Jesus.

- Jesus is the living door,
- the talking door,
- the speaking door and he invites us:

Won't you come into my Father's house?

Into green pastures.

Into security.

Into the safety of his arms.

For this day and for all eternity. Won't you please come in?" And Jesus is asking you and me, **this day**, to come into the Father's house and family and eternal love.

Many today are desperate for some kind of security, any kind of security.

The crime rate goes up so fast we can't keep track of it. Many have bought home security systems to ward off burglars or worse.

Businesses hire security guards to protect both people & their place of business.

Some of you may have even purchased "The Club" security device for your car. But w/all the security we have tried to purchase we find that no one really feels any more secure.

But when we come to Jesus we find real security. We are secure because **Christ is our Shepherd.**

Allied Soldiers gathered many hungry homeless children together after WWII and placed them in large camps. The children were abundantly feed and cared for; however, they did not sleep well and seemed restless and afraid.

Finally psychologists offered a solution. After the children were put to bed, they each received a slice of bread. If they wanted more to eat they could have it, but this particular piece of bread was not to be eaten ... just to be held.

The single slice of bread produced marvelous results. The children would go to sleep, subconsciously feeling there was something to eat tomorrow, and that feeling calmed the children.

In Psalms 23 David says the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. Instinctively the sheep knows the shepherd has made plans for grazing. He knows the shepherd has made all the provisions needed so he can lie down in peace. Just like the piece of bread in the child's hands.

Let me ask you a question. How do you sleep at night?

Read over **Psalms 23** again and see what type of Security you see ringing out of the verses.

Do you feel secure today?

Do you know without a doubt that if you died today you would go to heaven?

Jesus is ready to provide you w/that kind of security.

Transition: 3rdly let us notice that Jesus is our:

3. ENTRANCE TO SATISFACTION

v.9 "He will come in and go out and find pasture."

"And Find Pasture"

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters."
(Psalm 23:2).

The Lord will **sustain us**. He is our Strength and Provider. He has promised "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." We confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, **I will not be afraid.**" (Hebrews 13:5,6).

As God's children, we are as sheep in the midst of a green pasture. We are free to nourish ourselves on what the Lord has provided.

We need not be hungry or thirsty. We can stay with the Lord and know His protection. It would certainly be foolish to wander off on our own.

There is a protection when one lives within the communities, filled within a Christian family, Christian friends, or Christian connections.

When you join a church and Christian church people become your family, you find a greater safety and security than outside the Christian family/church.

The opposite is also true. Do you know all the kids that I have seen eaten alive by the wolves of this world?

Not only the kids, but moms and dads who have somehow strayed away from the protection of the Christian community and the good shepherd.

There is protection from the foolishness and craziness of life within the good shepherd and the Christian community.

Of course, there is not protection from cancer, from heart attacks, from car accidents, from tornadoes, from economic recession, from unemployment, and similar kinds of things that are part and parcel of being human. You and I are not protected from such disaster when we live within our homes or when we live with the church.

But there is protection and that protection is very important. There is a protection from evil, from the evil one, from the power of evil that wants to ruin your values and ruin the goodness of your life.

There is a spiritual, emotional and psychological security and safety within Jesus and his community, within the protectiveness of Christ and Christian friends and Christian family.

Jesus stands at the gate, trying to keep the evil things away from your life. My heart and mind shake with fear and uneasiness when I see people who do not think that they need the protection of Christ and the Christian community for themselves and their loved ones.

The Shepherd leads His sheep to the place where they can eat, where they can find satisfaction for their physical needs.

The need that we most often have is not physical, but spiritual.

I remember the Rolling Stones singing "I can't get no satisfaction."

They said that they tried & tried & tried & tried, but they still couldn't get any satisfaction.

Many of us have tried, like the Rolling Stones, to find some satisfaction, but we find we keep coming up empty.

The problem is that we keep going to the wrong sources.

Some try to satisfy themselves by getting more money--& they find that they only want more.

Some try to satisfy themselves through drugs & alcohol, & find that their dissatisfaction only grows worse.

Some try to satisfy themselves by becoming successful, but they find that success is subjective & they never know when they've really made it.

True satisfaction only comes when we find **spiritual pasture**.

Jesus will satisfy our spiritual needs.

He will take that hollow feeling & fill it with his grace.

Jesus will satisfy our emotional needs.

His will be the hand that wipes away our tears.

Jesus will satisfy our need for community.

He points to our brothers & sisters in Christ & shows us we never need to be lonely again.

John 8:31-32 (NASB)

"If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The idea of "going in and out" does not refer to leaving and coming back to Jesus. Rather, it refers to the freedom we have in Christ. We are free to live without regret and fear.

Freedom in Christ does not mean we are at liberty to disobey Him, however.

Grace is not a license to sin (Romans 6:1,2) nor is it an opportunity to serve the flesh (Galatians 5:13). We cannot be free apart from knowing the truth, and we cannot truly and accurately know the truth without abiding in His word.

Have you found true satisfaction?

You have if you've truly found Jesus.

God didn't create you to have that void in your life.

He wants you to be satisfied--but it will only happen when you're ready to come to the Shepherd & be His sheep.

You can have today, if you'll only walk through the Gate.

Conclusion:

Scientific experiment w/rat in maze--has to find right door to get cheese.

Our world is like that maze--& many of us wander around it trying to find the way out.

Jesus stands as both the way out & the way in.

He is the way out of the confusion of the world & the way into the peace of God.

Know Jesus, Know **Peace... No** Jesus **No Peace!**

What have you done this week that nobody but a Christian would do?

Let us Pray.....