

# The Door

John 10:9

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**FOCAL Read Together** John 10:9 **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

The Lord Jesus Christ made statements concerning Himself that no *normal* mortal person would make. His statements concerning Himself were sweeping, and set Himself above all others. For instance, throughout the Gospel of John we see Jesus defining Himself and His ministry with a number of “I Am” statements. Jesus said:

**John 6:35 ... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

He is not just “a bread” to eat, not just “a teacher among many”, but Jesus says “**I Am The Bread of Life**”. This speaks of exclusiveness, and surely – arrogance – if Jesus is but a mortal man. Jesus said:

**John 8:12 I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

He is not “one light amongst many”, but Jesus is “**The Light of The World**”. He was sent to this one world to be the one Light of it. If Jesus is but a good teacher this statement is at the least arrogant, and at the most the words of a madman. But He doesn't stop there. Jesus said:

**John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

He alone is “**The Good Shepherd**”. The job of the Shepherd was usually passed down to the son. Jesus – the One Who said “**I am the Son of God**” (John 10:36), willingly came to this earth. He left the splendor of Heaven to take upon Himself the likeness of sinful man. He Who was without sin was made sin for us. He lay down His life (2 Corinthians 5:21) for His people, for all who would come to Him to be delivered from sin.

Jesus said “**I Am the Door**”. There is no other Door but Jesus, no other Way unto God but by Him. He is THE Door unto God. He is THE Door unto salvation. He is THE Door unto God's Heaven. People have tried many ways of getting to God, yet all of the ways they have tried have failed BUT the Way that is Christ. The Lord tells us that the way to His side is to “**trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths**”. (Proverbs 3:5-6) When Jesus said “**I Am the Door**” He did not expect us to admire Him, to analyze Him, to debate Him, nor even – as little children – to sit at the doorway and meditate on Him. The Door unused is useless to you. The Door must be used. You must go unto God through Him.

Many years ago the Evangelist Henry Moorehouse was blessed with a precious little girl who was born crippled. Though she went around on crutches during the day, at night she would toss them to the side and scoot around on the floor. One day Henry came home from a revival with a large present for his dear wife. The little girl saw the package and, finding it was for her mother, said

“Daddy, let me carry it to Momma”. Henry tried gently to tell her the package was too big for her, but she kept insisting. Finally Henry said, "Alright, here take it." She held it in her arms and said, "Now Daddy pick me up and take me to Momma."

My prayer for you all is that you understand what our Lord meant when He said “I Am The Door”. I pray that God touch your hearts, open your eyes, and then lift you up to the Door that is Christ.

## 1. Our Need For The Door That Is Christ

### FOCAL John 10:9 I am The Door ...

What is, by definition, a “door”?

When Jesus says “I Am the Door” the statement makes no sense if you do not understand what a door is. All of you came into this building today by a door. If you attended Sunday School (and you should attend Sunday School) you entered the Annex by one of its doors.

A door is a *necessary opening in a wall*, without which you cannot get into or out of a room. A door, unlike a *window*, is made so that the smallest or the largest person can easily enter a room through it. There was a door in Noah's Ark. That door was necessary if God was going to save any of His creation from the impending Flood. That door was *wide* enough and *tall* enough to admit the largest and tiniest of animals. The function of a door is not to be pretty, but to be useful. It must be properly

planned. For instance, when we were building our new Sunday School Annex, I found out that we had to carefully plan the doors. Each door had to have a *header* above it, a solid beam of wood that would shore up the opening of the door. If you do not put a header in your door the weight of the wall above the door will cause the opening to flex and perhaps fail. A door without a header is a death trap. An improperly planned door is a nuisance.

Jesus Christ is The Door. He is the Necessary Door. The Bible tells us that:

**Galatians 3:22** But **the Scripture hath concluded all under sin** ...

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We are all born prisoners of sin, and the jailer is the Scripture. The **Scripture hath concluded or shut us up under sin.**

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There is nothing more power than God's Holy Scripture. It is His Word that gives us direction, and tells us that which is true. The Scripture tells us that **Adam brought death on all, spiritual death,**

**Romans 5:12** Wherefore, **as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

Here is what the great Jailer called Scripture tells us. Adam sinned, and brought death upon the whole world. Death passed upon all men, for all men are sinners.

Adam's sin erected the walls of the prison, but we continually re-enforced those walls by our own sinfulness. God promised that one day He would provide the Door by which we could come back to Him. The promise of the Door was first given to Satan when God promised him that **“the Seed of the woman shall bruise your head” (Genesis 3:15)**. Grace led Noah and his family through the door of the Ark, but Grace also promised Noah once he left the Ark that **“the water shall never more flood to destroy all of humanity again” (Genesis 9:15)**. It was man's evil that caused God to flood the earth, but God would never more do that – the rainbow reminds us of that great truth. God would make the necessary Door that would save all who would believe from that terrible prison of sin. We see also the promise of the Door in the covenant that God made with Abraham when the Lord promised:

**Genesis 22:18** And **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed** ...

When the time was right God would open the Door to the prison of sin, and open the Door to Heaven.

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Jesus said **“I Am The Door”**. He is that Door, the Promised Door, the Door of Redemption, the Door of Forgiveness, the Door of Acceptance, the Door of Adoption.

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The Bible says:

**Galatians 4:4-5** But **when the fullness of the time was**

come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

So many people think “I can get to Heaven by my good deeds” or “I can enter into God's presence because I am a good person”. Oh dear Ones, do you not see? Jesus said **“I Am The Door”**. There is no other door into God's presence. There is no window that you can climb through, no other opening. Good works are fine. There is a story in Scripture of a man **sick of the palsy** who, because so many were around Jesus, his friends were unable to get to Him. So his friends took him up to the roof and, tearing up the roof, let the sick man down to where Jesus was (**Mark 2:4-5**). Good works brought that sick person to Jesus. Good works tore a hole in the roof of a house because the man-made walls that were there kept the sick man from getting to Jesus. There's nothing wrong with that. But Beloved, you cannot tear your way into Heaven by good works.

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You cannot get better, or become free of the **palsy of sin** without going to the Door that is Jesus.

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Turn to **Exodus 20** and, after reading the Ten Commandments, tell me that you can get to Heaven by your goodness. Look at the commandment:

**Deuteronomy 11:1** Therefore **thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.**

And tell me that you – in all honesty – have kept *even the first part of this command perfectly*. You cannot – and neither can I. **C.H. Spurgeon** said<sup>1</sup>:

**“{The person} who can read the law and not tremble, if he be out of Christ, must be dead in his sin, he must be ignorant altogether of its meaning, or else he must have hardened his heart against its terrible {importance}. The awakened conscience knows that the law curses every one of us, without exception, for we have broken it.”**

**Billy Graham** once said:

**“I hear the thunders of Mount Sinai, and I hear the Word of God saying, "The wages of sin is death" [Romans 6:23]. The wages of sin is hell. I deserve to be lost. I deserve hell. I deserve judgment. My sins are damning me. And when I say that, and when I come to the cross, and when I ask God for grace, I ask Him for His love. I ask Him for His mercy. And coming from that cross is love, and mercy, and forgiveness. I don't deserve it! You can't work your way to heaven if you join every church in town. You could work from now on, and you could never save yourself. Salvation is by the grace and mercy of God. Ladies and gentlemen, we are all sinners. We all deserve hell, and we are going to get hell, unless we are willing to repent and come to the cross; hell in this life, and in the life to come.”**

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<sup>1</sup> In *The Great Jail and How To Get Out of It*

The Great Jailer of the Law thundered our need from the mounts of **Sinai**, of **Ebal**, and of **Gerizim**. What did God say?

**Deuteronomy 27:26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.**

And again in the New Testament:

**Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**

**Illustrate** We are all shut up under sin. We are all in a great Jail that will bring us unto hell, whether we be great moralists or the most casual of sinners. My wife gave me the best illustration of our condition just a moment ago. Having come back from shopping the day after the Thanksgiving holiday she told me that some people had been standing in line outside the door of the stores as early as 4:30 in the morning *waiting to get a good deal*.

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Oh Beloved, will you humble yourselves and stand outside of a man made door attached to a mortal store in the freezing cold, suffering to buy that which **“moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal” (Matthew 6:19)**. Will you, imprisoned in sin and death, not go to the One Door that alone can free you and grant you Eternal Life?

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King David said:

**Psalms 143:2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.**

We cannot stand in God's sight, we cannot enter into God's Heaven *but by Christ*. He has said:

**FOCAL John 10:9 I am The Door ...**

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Jesus Christ did not erase the Law of God – He did not kill the Jailer – but He *satisfied the Jailer*.

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Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.**

It is interesting that the Pharisees continually charged Jesus and His disciples with breaking the Law. When Jesus and His disciples picked corn to feed themselves the Pharisees – who used the *Jailer as the Door unto God* – judged **“Thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day” (Matthew 12:2)**.

Who were the greatest offenders of God in the Scripture but the Pharisees who used the Law as the Door while rejecting Christ as the Door? Look at Simon the Pharisee. This man was a *leper* (**Matthew 26:6**) and yet

Jesus went to have supper with him. What did this man, this *holier than thou man* think of Jesus? He gave the Lord no creature comforts, no water for His feet, no oil for His hair. All this man – who sought to enter Heaven through the Jailer called Law – did was condemn Jesus in his heart for the woman of ill repute who knelt, washing His feet with her tears and wiping them with the hair of her head. This woman, a Sinner, knew who she was. And she knelt with all humility at the feet of the Door of God. This woman, Jesus said, **whose sins were many,**

**Luke 7:47 ... are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.**

Dear ones, the best way to get through the Door that is Christ is on your knees, in humility, trusting in Him and Him alone. With Love come to the Door that is Christ. Trust His promise, that ...

## **2. Look To The Door And His Promise**

**FOCAL** John 10:9 I am the door: **by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved ...**

There are many people who misunderstand the salvation that Christ promises, but if we misunderstand it is not because Jesus misled us. What did Jesus say? **“By Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved”**. Let's look at this word by word.

**“By Me”**. Jesus does not say “By Me and You”, nor does He make you or I part of The Door. We make the Door *necessary*, but we did not make the Door.

**Christ is Visible, not Hidden** Jesus said **“By Me”**. The Door of a house is visible, and easily accessible. I have heard of hidden doors behind staircases and bookshelves, but these doors were made to exclude all but the select into that hidden place. God does not hide His Christ. Jesus did not whisper but spoke up clearly **“I Am the Door, by Me if you'll enter in, you'll be saved”**. Jesus as The Door does not hide Himself nor make Himself exclusive. **“By Me if ANY MAN ENTER in”**. God loves you all, and excludes no one from His great calling.

The House of Mercy, without the Door, would be a House of Misery.

What does Jesus say?

**Proverbs 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.**

**And**

**Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

The Door that is Christ is not hidden. The Lord does not

play “hide and seek” over such a thing as important as the salvation of your soul. **He laid down His life for His friends (John 15:13)** - why would He hide from us what He purchased so dearly? When did Jesus hide Himself from any?

To the man sick of the palsy Christ said  
**“Your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9:2)**

To the woman at Simon's house Jesus said  
**“Your sins are forgiven” (Luke 7:48)**

For the mocking at the foot of the Cross Jesus prayed  
**“Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34)**

He is not hidden to us, or to any, if you would but look. There He stands, ready to receive, if you would but enter in through Him.

**Christ Is The Only Door** So many try to enter Heaven through **self sufficiency, self righteousness, through priest, or rite, or ceremony, or will.** To them Jesus cries out:

**FOCAL John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved ...**

If we come to Jesus and say “Master, how shall we enter Heaven?” His answer is simply **“I Am The Door”**. We ask, “Must I imitate You to enter Glory?”, and again He replies **“I Am The Door”**.

You do not imitate a door to enter a house – you simply walk through it. You do not increase in Orthodoxy to enter a house. You do not learn to be a better person, or tarry until you FEEL that you are worthy. What do you do enter a house? You walk through the door. Even so Christ Jesus.

Salvation is not found in the Church, nor in rites and rituals, but in Christ alone. Jesus said **“I Am The Door”**, and it is through Him and Him alone that Heaven is achieved.

There are some who feel that they need to jealously guard the Door. They feel that they must warn others “unless you maintain a certain standard you cannot remain saved”.

Salvation, some say, is a thing of Grace that is only *kept by struggle*. What did Jesus say?

Jesus was very clear, for He said **“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved”**. Enter in by Jesus and you *might be saved*? No, not at all. Does Jesus say *you will be saved if you add this or that*? No. What did He say? **By Me if any man enter in he shall be saved**. That's definitive – absolute – and pure.

May I say, dear Friends, that we can lose the blessing of salvation if we who are born again sin lightly. And yet, dearly Beloved, we who are born again can never lose *eternalness* of salvation for salvation merely requires

that we enter in through Christ. **What shall separate us from the love of Christ?** The Apostle wrote:

**Romans 8:35-39 ... shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. {37} Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him (OUR DOOR) that loved us. {38} For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, {39} Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

If you have entered in through The Door you **shall be saved** for God Himself has promised this to all who believe on Him. Am I telling you that you do not need to be holy to get into Heaven? Absolutely not. You need to be Holy to get into Heaven, but you must come to Christ *without being holy*. Come to Him, the Door, and enter in through Him. Once you enter in through Him Jesus will take care of your Heavenly credentials. You will become:

**Ephesians 2:10 ... His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

God will provide the holiness once you walk through The Door that is Christ. **Adrian Rogers** said:

**“Spiritual blindness makes beggars of us all. ... The blind need more than light in order to see. ... the person is blind because he cannot see it. It takes more than light, it takes sight. And a person who is blind cannot see the light, no matter how strong the light is or how pure the light is.”<sup>2</sup>**

My prayer at this moment is that the Holy Spirit convince you of your need, of your blindness, and that you do the only thing you can do – **walk toward the Door that is Christ**. Jesus must give you life. He said **“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”**. Jesus must show you the Way. He said **“I Am the Way”**. Walk to Him and through Him unto the Way that is Life.

### **3. Why We Cling To Grace**

The Apostle John – a man who greatly loved Jesus – was cast away on an Island called “Patmos”. Why was John on Patmos? Because he has dared to preach the Gospel of Christ even though the Roman authorities ordered him to stop doing so. Most of the other Apostles suffered martyrdom<sup>3</sup>, dying for their faith. The Apostle James was one of the first to be martyred (**Acts 12:2**), and John's other companion, the Apostle Peter<sup>4</sup>, died on a cross.

<sup>2</sup> His sermon *Jesus is God's Answer to Man's Darkness: John 20:30*

<sup>3</sup> At least, as far as we know. Simon the Zealot may not have suffered martyrdom, but of the remainder – minus John – we know from history as well as popular legend they all suffered martyrs deaths.

<sup>4</sup> From *Whatever Happened To The Disciples*, by Greg Dill: **“Concerning Peter's execution, Origen says that Peter thought himself unworthy to be crucified in the same manner the Lord was. So at his own request, he was crucified upside down on a cross. Eusebius states that Peter was later buried in the cemetery near Nero's Circus Maximus in what is today near St. Peter's Basilica. Recent excavations underneath the**

But John was exiled to the Island of Patmos as Caesar thought that this would be a much more harsh and lingering death. I believe as John lay there, abandoned to his death, he thought on the words of Christ and of the day he did as Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John had lost everything. No family, no friends, no food, no riches, no nothing – yet because he believed on Jesus he had everything. As he lay abandoned he remembered Christ's promise “**he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and shall find pasture**”. Suddenly the terrors of Patmos receded as John looked into Heaven and saw the **Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last – Christ**.

Why do we who are saved **cling to grace and Jesus?**  
Because Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and **shall go in and out, and find pasture**.

You received *sight – not light* – on the day that you accepted Christ as Savior. But now that you have entered in through The Door you only maintain your blessing by **going out and in** through Him. Those Whom Jesus

saves, He protects and nourishes and blesses – but we must view all things through Him. We must learn to *do* all things through Him, by Him, and for Him. That is the nature of the Christian way of life.

A Christian “**once was blind, but now he sees**”. There is no life or blessing outside of Christ.

May God the Holy Spirit touch your hearts with His anointed Word.

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Basilica have unearthed a cemetery containing both Christian and pagan tombs, a likely place for the burial of this great and noble Christian servant and leader.” Original document found at [http://www.bibleteacher.org/con\\_3.htm](http://www.bibleteacher.org/con_3.htm)