

CHRIST IS THE DOOR

"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 10:9.

Our Lord was accustomed to use familiar objects and situations in order to teach men spiritual truths. The life of the shepherd and the incident of the sheepfold were among the commonplace of Syrian life in His day, so He takes them and makes them the vehicle of some of His most gracious, tender and glorious truths. The relation of the sheep to the shepherd is, on the one hand, a relation of dependence, submission and trust; on the other hand, a relation of strength, providence and affection, and these lie deepest in the relation of every Christian to his Saviour and Lord.

Here we find one of those great and grand and wide-sweeping statements that the Lord often made of Himself. He says, "I am the door." Even a child knows what a door is. It is the means of entrance into an enclosure -- either a home, or a sanctuary or a building. A door presumes a "within" and a "without". Before we pass through the door we are outside, when we have crossed the doorstep, we are inside. Behind the door we find shelter from the wind and rain, also security and rest. Of course we know what a closed door means if it shuts us out from the building.

When Jesus said, "I am the door" He spoke of Himself as an entrance and exit. What a strange world this would be if there were no entrance for the ploughshare into the soil, no entrance for a miner's pick into the bowels of the earth, no entrance for knowledge into the human mind, no entrance into our homes, no entrance into the mysteries of nature, no entrance into the resources of God! And what a sad world this would be if there were no exit from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from sickness to health, from sorrow to joy! Now Jesus taught how essential He is to life, whether it be a thing of entrance or exit, when He said; "I am the door."

I. Christ Is The Door To Salvation.

There could be no peace between an infinitely holy God and sinful men who had broken His laws and despised His authority, so long as our sins remained unatoned for. God in His infinite mercy devised a way whereby He might be both just and also the justifier of him who believeth on Jesus. That way was by the sacrifice of His Son. The Lord Jesus, by His death in our stead, settled every claim God had against us. He thereby removed every hindrance to God's acceptance of us. The instant we put our trust in the sacrifice of Christ, we have peace with God, for by so doing we accept the peace which God has provided. Those who believe can truly say, "He is our peace."

Since there is no other way by which we can obtain peace with God, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the door" -- the door to peace. There is no other door to peace. God does not ask us to make peace with Him. He asks us to accept the peace which He has made, by believing on His Son. Peace with God is a relationship, not a state of mind. Christ is the only door to peace with God. "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." Isaiah 48:22. And God classes as wicked all who have not received His Son.

When Christ says, "I am the door," He wants us to understand that He is the means of entrance into the fold of God. This Christ claims to be: --

1. Personally.

"I am" -- not my teaching nor my example. Jesus is Himself the door; not ceremonies, doctrines, professions, achievements, but Himself.

2. Exclusively.

"The" -- As a Saviour Christ stands alone and refuses to share His honors with any colleague. Jesus did not say, "I am a door." He said, "I am the door." There is a vast difference between a door and the door. There is only one door into God's fold, and that door is Christ. "No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." "Neither

is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Since there is only one door, let us not weary ourselves in trying to find another.

3. Universally.

"If any man" -- It is a door which all can approach and enter and not one to which only "the high and mighty" have the key. It is not a door where kings and the rich are welcome and where the poor and beggars are forbidden, but a door where "whosoever will may come," and where "whosoever believeth" may enter. "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

"Whosoever heareth," shout, shout the sound!
Spread the blessed tidings all the world around;
Spread the joyful news wherever man is found:
"Whosoever will may come."

"Whosoever will, whosoever will,"
Send the proclamation over vale and hill;
'Tis a loving Father calls the wand'rer home:
"Whosoever will may come."

4. Certainly.

"Shall be saved." All who enter this door will be saved; no exception is made. The primary and fundamental need of men everywhere is salvation. But one must enter the door if he is to be saved. The door is open, but dinners will never enjoy the refuge and the glories of the inside until they enter. To be near is not to be inside. Inside the house the fire burns, but you will not feel its cheery warmth until you enter. Inside the house the feast is spread, and there is plenty for all, but you cannot partake of the feast while on the outside. Inside the house is a bed which is good for rest, but you can never utilize that bed until you are inside. To be outside the kingdom is to be outside salvation and refuge. "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God" can never mean "Thou art in the kingdom of God." To all who come to Christ, the door to salvation will immediately open. The only key that will open it is the golden key of trust.

II. Christ Is The Door To Security.

In our text the Lord says, "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." The man who enters this door by faith will find protection from the pangs of the past, the perils of the present, the fears of the future. Jesus was certainly emphasizing security when He spoke these words. A human being outside of Christ is at the mercy of forces too strong for unaided humanity. The disasters of life overwhelm us if we are not safe in Christ. Christ is the only door to real security. Those who are in Him are safe forever. He said, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:27-28. If we wish to be safe, we must obtain safety through faith in Him.

III. Christ Is The Door To Satisfaction.

Christ's words simply refer to the rich and full nature of life in Him. The fulness of the Christian life is exhibited in safety, liberty and support. Christ is the door by which men enter in and enjoy the greatest blessings provided by God. "Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin." Yes, and plenteous pasture for growth and development also is found in Christ. Christ is not the door to sadness and misery and tears, but to everything that is rich and good in life. Among the elements of satisfaction to which Christ is the door are the following:

1. Victory.

Each of us has three formidable foes -- the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are tempted to love the world that crucified the Saviour, and to conform to its customs. There is only one who can give us victory over the world and its ways, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He can give us victory over the world, because He overcame

it. We are tempted to yield to the flesh -- to hatred and jealousy and a desire for popularity and prominence. Christ is the door through which we can be victorious over these things, but He is the only door to victory. He can and will deliver all who trust Him. We are tempted to yield to the devil. He is the most dangerous enemy any man could possibly have. All the misery in the world is due to the fact that men have listened to him. But Christ is the door to victory over Satan himself. The Lord Jesus conquered Satan and through Christ we too can conquer him.

2. Joy.

Christ was appointed to give joy before He entered this world as a babe in the manger at Bethlehem. He came and suffered and died that our joy might be full. If you have never experienced fulness of joy through faith in the Lord Jesus, you do not know yet what real joy is. Deep and abiding joy comes only through faith in Christ. Those of us who know Him rejoice in Him because of what He has done for us. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness. We rejoice in Him because of what He has promised to do for us in the future -- to keep us from falling and present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. No matter what our needs may be, they can be supplied through Christ. "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. "No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly."

3. Hope.

When we receive Christ by faith, we enter through Him into the possession of every blessing He died to obtain for us. Not one Christian knows the full extent of his inheritance. Our riches are unsearchable, and yet God has revealed enough to us to spur us on to faithfulness in all things, and to give us unspeakable joy. The promises of Christ refer not merely to this life. The most glorious ones have to do with the life to come. If only we look upon Him as one who can bless us while we are upon earth, we are much to be pitied, for as Paul puts it, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Corinthians 15:19. Christ is the door to a glorious, eternal inheritance far more wonderful than any human language can describe. He said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life." Eternal life includes the unending enjoyment of God's favor and blessing in the life to come. Only those who receive Him by faith have this sure hope. If you are without hope, Christ is the door by which you can obtain a sure hope. God's promises will never disappoint us. There is nothing more terrible than hopelessness, and, thanks be to God, there is nothing more unnecessary. The door stands open. Jesus is that door. Now is the day of opportunity. Receive and trust Him, and you will have a hope that will never disappoint.

If you want to be saved, enter now through Him into eternal life, peace, victory, joy and hope; yea, all you need. Learn from experience that, "Thou, O Christ, art all I want, More than all in Thee I find."

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood;

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

Since Christ is the door to blessings unspeakable, I beseech you to enter into possession of these things through Him.