

***“The Door”***  
***John 10:7-10***

**Introduction:**

1. As We Open Our Bibles:
  - Back Up This Morning:
    - To John 10 - I Want You To Think About:
      - How Many Doors:
        - You Had To Go Through:
          - To Get Here This Morning!
    - Of Course - Some:
      - Of Those Doors & Door-Ways:
        - Were Probably Already Open:
          - For You - As You Went Through Them!
            - Without Giving It A Second Thought!
    - While There Were Other Doors:
      - You Had To Open And Close:
        - Yourself!
  - Think About:
    - Your Bedroom Door:
      - When You Got Up This Morning!
    - Your Bathroom Door:
      - When You Went To Get Ready!
    - Then - Probably Your Bedroom Door Again:
      - To Finish Getting Ready!
    - Your House Door:
      - To Go Outside & Open The Car Door:
        - Which Took You To:
          - The Doors Of The Church!
    - Can You Count Them All Up?
      - Perhaps You Could - But You Might Wonder:
        - Why? What's The Point?
          - After All - They Are Just Doors!
2. We Often Take Doors For Granted, Don't We?
  - Until There's A Door:
    - In Your Way:
      - And - There's No Way Of Getting Through It!
  - Or - There's *Not* A Door:
    - When There Should Be One:
      - Especially When:
        - You Need It!
  - Well - As We Come To:
    - John 10:7 - We Need To Remember That:
      - Jesus Described Himself As:
        - A Door! And - Not Just "A" Door:
          - But "The Door!"
    - And So - From 10:7-10:
      - "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. / All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. / 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 thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly!"
3. In These Verses:
  - Jesus Starts To Explain And Expand Upon:
    - The Illustration He Just Gave:
      - In 10:1-5 - About A:
        - Common, Public Sheepfold:
          - That Was Being Invaded By:

- A "Thief And A Robber!" (10:1)

- But - Even As The Thief:

- Climbed Over The Wall:

- To Get To The Sheep:

- A Shepherd Arrived Just In Time:

- To Retrieve & Rescue His Sheep:

- One By One - By - 10:3 - "Calling His Own Sheep By Name, And Leading Them Out!"

- And This Shepherd:

- Reached His Sheep:

- The Right Way!

- By - 10:2 - "Entering In By The Door!"

4. Of Course - As Jesus Will Explain:

- Later, Starting In 10:11 - He Is:

- This Good Shepherd!

- But - In The Verses We Just Read:

- He Also Describes Himself:

- As "The Door Of The Sheep!"

- Jesus Is The Door:

- Through Which His Sheep:

- Could Go To Find Relief From:

- The Danger & Distress Of The Sheepfold In Which They Lived!

- And So - Jesus Is:

- A Door That:

- We Must Never Take For Granted!

- And - In These Verses:

- We Can See Three Reasons Why!

\* First - From 10:7-8 - We Can See That Jesus Is:

**1. The Door Of Potential!**

- The Door Of Potential!

- **IE:** All The Way Back In 1963 - A Game Show Was Made For TV Called - "Let's Make A Deal!" - After A Run Of Over 3,500 Shows Over 13 Years, Hosted By Monty Hall - It Made A Comeback In 2009, And Can Still Be Seen! But - One Of The Highlights Of The Show Was When A Contestant Could Decide On A Prize Hidden Behind One Of Three Doors, Or A Known Prize Instead! Those Big Doors Were Doors Of Potential! There Could Be Something Of Great Value Behind Them, Or Of No Value At All! They Just Wouldn't Know It - Until The Doors Were Opened!

- Of Course - The Kind Of Potential That Is Behind The Door Of Jesus Is Of Far More Importance & Value Than The Doors On That Show!

- Which Is Why, Once Again, Jesus Introduces This Truth By Saying:

- "Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You!"

- This Is Now The 16<sup>th</sup> Time In John That Jesus Uses This Phrase!

- Because - The Truth That:

- He Is The Greatest Door Of Potential:

- In All Of This World:

- Is A Certain & Constant & Consequential Truth:

- That They & We Need To Hear & Remember!

- But - To Really Appreciate:

- This Truth:

- We - Like The Sheep In His Story:

- Need To Understand:

- The Real Need - For Jesus As "The Door!"

- And - We Need Him Because:

- Of What He Tells Us In:

- 10:8a - "All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers!"

- So - In The Sheepfold:

- Of The Children Of Israel:

- Which Were The Old Covenant:

- People Of God:
- There Were Many Who “Came Before” Jesus:
  - Pretending To Be:
    - Something They Were Not!
  - Some Pretended To:
    - Speak For God:
      - But Didn’t!
  - Some Pretended To:
    - Be Sent By God:
      - But Weren’t!
  - Some Pretended To:
    - Be Shepherds Of God’s People:
      - But Instead They Were, “Thieves And Robbers!”
  - And - They Used Lies & Deception:
    - To Steal For Themselves As Many Sheep As They Could!
- But - In That Same Sheepfold:
  - Were Some Of God’s True Sheep!
    - And Though, By God’s Grace & Power:
      - They “Did Not Hear” These “Thieves And Robbers!”
    - They Were Still Threatened By Them:
      - And Often Troubled By Them!
  - After All - Those Enemies:
    - Were Plentiful!
      - Interesting To Note That:
        - Back In 10:1 - The Thief Is Seen As One (Singular) - But Here In 10:8 - As Many (Plural)!
  - Those Enemies:
    - Were Also Powerful & Persistent!
      - And - All You Have To Do Is Read Through The History Of The Old Testament To See This!
- And - God’s True Sheep:
  - Were Weary & Often Worried:
    - And Needed Help & Hope!
  - They Needed A Door:
    - Through Which They Could Run And Escape Their Enemies!
  - And - Praise God - Their Was!
    - And - There Still Is!
      - Jesus! Again - 10:7 - “I Am The Door Of The Sheep!”
    - And - Through These Words:
      - Jesus Reveals:
- (His) Real Nature – As “The Door!”
  - When Jesus Said “I Am” The Door:
    - He Reveals That He Is:
      - An Everlasting Door:
        - For All Of His Sheep!
          - No Matter Where Or When They Lived!
  - “I Am” Reminds Us Of:
    - The Name That God Used:
      - To Reveal Himself To Moses:
        - At The Burning Bush Back In Exodus 3:14 - “I Am That I Am!”
      - This Is A Name That:
        - Expresses God’s Eternal & Self-Existent Nature!
    - So - When Jesus Uses It For Himself:
      - It Means That:
        - He Has Always Been:
          - What He Describes Himself To Be!
    - Jesus Is & Has Always Been:
      - The “Everlasting” Door:

- That Leads To God & Heaven Itself!
- When God Formed The Sheepfold:
  - Of The Children Of Israel:
    - There Was Always A Door:
      - Set Into Its Rocky Walls:
        - That Was A Door Of Potential - For Salvation & Relief From The Enemies Of Their Soul!
  - This Is Why - Time After Time:
    - God Sent & Spoke Through:
      - True Prophets & Preachers:
        - To Tell His Sheep About & Point To The Door Of The Messiah!
  - And So - All Throughout The History Of Israel:
    - God's True Sheep:
      - Kept Looking To The Door:
        - For The Help & Hope They Needed As They Were Being Accosted & Assaulted By Their Enemies!
      - They Kept Looking To The Door:
        - And Longing For The Day:
          - When The Shepherd Himself Would Open It & Come Through & Redeem Them & Rescue Them!
    - Just Like Old Simeon!
      - Who, According To Luke 2, Was "Waiting For The Consolation Of Israel!"
        - *His* Consolation!
        - And - When He Saw The Baby Jesus In The Temple - "Then Took He Him Up In His Arms, And Blessed God, And Said: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: / For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, / Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; / A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel!" (Luke 2:28-32)
  - And So - The Door That:
    - God's Sheep Looked To:
      - In The Ancient Past!
    - Is Still The Door:
      - That All Of God's Sheep Look To For Their Rescue And Relief! He Is Still The Door Of Your Hope & Help!
        - No Matter What Threat You Face! No Matter What Temptation You Experience! No Matter What Trouble You May Be Going Through!
  - Jesus Is An Everlasting Door!
    - But - Jesus Is Also:
      - An Exclusive Door!
        - This Too Is Part Of His Nature!
    - In 10:7 - Jesus Did Not Say:
      - "I Am *A* Door!"
        - As If There Are Other Doors:
          - Through Which His Sheep Can Find Help & Hope & Deliverance! No!
      - Jesus Said - "I Am *The* Door!"
        - And Later, He Will Expand On This Truth:
          - In 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!"
- So - When A Sheep:
  - Recognizes The Desperate Need:
    - They Have For:
      - A Door - In Order To Escape:
        - The Dangers Of The Sheepfold In Which They Live!
          - Whatever "World" They Belong To!
  - And - When A Sheep:
    - Realizes The True Nature:
      - Of The Door:

- Through Which Rescue Can Come!
- What Will That Sheep Do?
  - Keep Looking To The Door!
  - And - Keep Longing For:
    - It To Be Opened Unto Them!
  - **IE:** Sometimes - I'll Be A At Home - When My Wife Returns From Work - Our Dog Hears The Garage Door Open - And Will Run & Wait & Watch Until She Comes Through The Door & Into The House! What Is She Looking At? The Door! But What Is She Excited About? The Person!
- This Is What:
  - You Need To Always Keep In Mind!
    - Jesus Is Still The Dor:
      - For The Help & Hope You Need!

\* But Then - We Can See That Jesus Is:

## 2. ***The Door Of Promise!***

- The Door Of Promise!
  - **IE:** Sometimes "Doors" Are Used As Pictures To Illustrate The Opportunities That Lie Behind Them! For Graduates Of High School & College - There Are Many Doors Of Opportunity Ahead Of Them! Even Paul Used This Picture When Writing The Corinthian Church About His Time In Ephesus - "For A Great Door And Effectual Is Opened Unto Me!" (1 Corinthians 16:9)
    - However - Most Of What's Behind Those Doors Of Opportunity Are Still Mysteries! You Really Don't Know What You Will Face When You Go Through That Door!
      - However - When It Comes To *Jesus* As The Door - There Is Certainty Behind Him - Based On The Promises We Find In 10:9 - Where Jesus Repeats Himself:
        - "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture!" (4 Promises!)
  - Now - Jesus - As The Door Of Potential:
    - Becomes The Door Of Promise - When:
      - This Condition Is Met!
    - "If Any Man Enter In!"
      - To "Enter In" Means That:
        - You Need To Grasp Onto The Handle Of His Door, Twist It, Open It, And Go Through
        - All By Faith!
          - Knowing That - His Door Is The Only Way *Out*:
            - Of What You Are Facing Inside The Fold Of Your World! And:
          - Knowing That - His Door Is The Only Way *In*:
            - To The Safety & Security He Offers!
    - Have You Done This?
      - Are You Doing This?
        - Of Course - It Is By Grace That:
          - God Opens Up Your Mind & Heart To These Things!
          - But Then - You Must "Enter Into" His Door!
      - And - When You Do:
        - Just Look At These Promises:
          - That Jesus Himself Gives To You For Just Coming To:
            - And Trusting In Him!
    - The Promise Of Salvation!
      - 10:9 - "By Me If Any Man Enter In, He Shall Be Saved!"
        - This Means That Jesus Himself:
          - Will Rescue You From:
            - The Old Sheepfold:
              - Of Whatever World Was Your Home!
          - Jesus Promises To Deliver You:
            - From All Of Its:
              - Dangers & Distresses & Deceptions:
                - Caused By Those Thieves And Robbers!
            - But Also From All Of The:
              - Distractions & Discouragements:

- That Are Caused By Your Own Nature As A Sheep - To “Go Astray!”
- Which Is Why Even King David Prayed:
  - At The End Of Psalm 119 - “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments!” (119:176)
- And This Is What Jesus Promises To Do:
  - For His Sheep!
    - He Will Seek You & Find You & Rescue You & Save You!
    - But Then, He Adds:
- The Promise Of Solace!
  - Solace & Comfort & Peace:
    - Because - The Sheep He Saves:
      - 10:9 - “Shall Go In!”
    - This Promise Begg The Question:
      - Where Will The Sheep Go In *To*?
  - I Think The Natural Answer Is:
    - Another Fold! Even:
      - A New Fold!
        - The Fold Of Jesus Himself!
    - When He Rescues You:
      - He Will Lead You *From*:
        - The Old & Dangerous Sheepfold Of The World!
      - But Then - He Will Lead You *Into*:
        - A New & Secure Sheepfold:
          - That Belongs To Jesus Himself!
        - This Is Why Jesus Will Say:
          - In 10:16 - “There Shall Be One Fold, And One Shepherd!”
    - **IE**: This Can Also Be Seen In Ancient Israel - When Shepherds Would Take Their Own Flocks Into The Country To Find Places To Graze! Take Their Flock From The Large, Public Sheepfold, Where A Porter Kept The Door - And Use A Smaller, Private Sheepfold Where, At Night, The Shepherd Himself Would Lie In At The Entrance - And Become The Door Himself!
      - And So - When You Go Through Jesus As The Door - By Faith In Him:
        - You Enter Into All Of The Blessings And Benefits Promised By God:
          - Through His Word!
      - And Yet - Even Though:
        - You Are Safely Part Of Jesus’ New Flock & Fold:
          - For Now, You Still Live In The Wilderness Of This World!
          - And This Is Why Jesus Adds:
- The Promise Of Security!
  - Because - Not Only Will His Sheep “Go In” - They:
    - Will Also “Go Out!”
  - Now - This Is One Of Those Cases:
    - Where The Illustrations & Parables Of Jesus:
      - Using Natural Things:
        - Just Can’t Contain The Fulness Of The Spiritual Truth & Meaning Jesus Is Sharing!
    - So - Its Not That:
      - You Leave The New Fold:
        - That You Are Now A Part Of - That:
          - You Now Have As:
            - Your Home!
        - No - Instead - Wherever Jesus Leads You:
          - In The “Field” Of This World:
            - You Are Still Safe & Secure - Because:
              - The Sheepfold Goes Wherever The Shepherd Goes!
    - **IE**: I Think Another Picture Of This Can Be Found In Revelation - When The New Jerusalem Descends Out Of Heaven For The People Of God! And We Read About “The Nations Of Them Which Are Saved” Going In & Out Of The Gates Of The City! Though The City Is The Most Prominent Part Of The New World - The Whole World Is As Safe & Secure As The City Itself! So It Is When You Enter Through Jesus

As The Door Of Promise! Once Inside, Always Inside! Once Secure, Always Secure! Now You Can Say & Sing:

- “Anywhere With Jesus I Can Safely Go; Anywhere He Leads Me In This World Below; Anywhere Without Him Dearest Joys Would Fade; Anywhere With Jesus I Am Not Afraid!”
  - And - Where Else Does The Door Of Jesus Lead?
- The Promise Of Satisfaction!
  - 10:9 - “And Shall Find Pasture!”
    - All Of Your True Needs & Wants:
      - Will Be Supplied!
        - Even As Paul Reminds Us In Philippians 4:19 - “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”
- And - All Of These Promises:
  - Are Guaranteed To Be Fulfilled:
    - When You Just Go “Through” The Door:
      - Of Jesus Christ - And:
        - Enter Into His Fold!
  - And Yet - How Many:
    - Who Hear About:
      - All The Great Potential & Promises:
        - That Lay Just Inside This Door:
          - Still Loiter & Languish In The Old Sheepfold?
  - But Why? There Really Is No Reason To!
    - Especially When We Find Next:
      - That Jesus Is Also:

### 3. ***The Door Of Purpose!***

- **IE:** Of Course - Every Door Has A Purpose! A Door Can Be Welcoming - To Bring People In - Like At The Main Entrance Of Your Home - Or - A Door Can Be Restrictive - To Keep People Out - Like The Door To A Bank Vault! There Are Different Doors For Different Purposes! The Same Is True For The Door Of Jesus! It Serves A Purpose!
  - But - His Purpose:
    - Is In Stark Contrast With:
  - The Purpose Of The Thief:
    - Which Jesus Describes In 10:10:
      - Because - “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy!”
        - This Is All The Thief Can Offer:
          - A Sheep Who Remains In The Old Sheepfold!
      - And Since The Thief:
        - According To 10:1:
          - “Entereth Not By The Door!”
            - His Purpose Is Only To:
    - Capture:
      - The Bodies Of The Sheep:
        - By “Stealing” Them & Using Them:
          - For Themselves!
        - But - When The Thief Is Done:
          - With That - He Will:
    - Consume:
      - The Very Lives Of The Sheep:
        - By “Killing” Them!
          - Perhaps Even For Religious Purposes! Showing Their True Colors & Hypocrisy Even More!
            - But - Ultimately The Thief’s Desire In Jesus’ Story Is To:
    - Condemn:
      - The Souls Of The Sheep!
        - To Utterly “Destroy” And Bring Them”
          - To Ruin!
    - The Sheep In Jesus’ Story:
      - Are Souls:

- That The Thief Cares Absolutely:
  - Nothing For!
- But This Is Not The Case:
  - With Jesus!
    - In His Story - He Comes Both:
      - *As* The Door - And:
        - *To* The Door:
          - For This Purpose:
            - 10:10b - "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly!"
  - The "Life" That Jesus Refers To Is:
    - The Timeless Life:
      - That He Told Nicodemus About:
        - In 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!"
    - Only When You Have This Life:
      - Can The Promises Of:
        - Salvation & Solace & Security & Satisfaction Found In 10:9:
          - Be Fulfilled!
      - But - When You Do:
        - Have This Timeless Life:
  - It Will Result In:
    - The True Life:
      - That Is "Abundant!"
    - A Life That Can Be Experienced & Enjoyed:
      - To The Nth Degree!
    - A Life That Is:
      - Superior:
        - In Every Way, Shape, And Form!

**Conclusion:**

1. So - Remember Today That:
  - Jesus Remains This Kind Of Door!
    - The Door Of Great Potential!
    - The Door Of Great Promise! And:
    - The Door Of Great Purpose!
2. And - In Order To:
  - Enter Into The Fold Of God:
    - You Need To First:
      - Go Through The Door Of Jesus:
        - And Receive His Life!
    - This Comes Through:
      - A Grace-Fueled:
        - Realization That:
          - What Is On The Other Side:
            - Of The Door - Is Far Better Than:
              - What Is On This Side Of The Door:
                - Of Your Life!
    - Then - It Continues Through:
      - A Godly Sorrow Over Your Sin:
        - That Worketh Repentance:
          - And - A Turning To The Only Door "From Whence Cometh" Your Help!
    - And Then - It Grasps Onto Jesus:
      - Through Faith In:
        - All That He Is - And:
        - All That He Did:
          - For You!
    - This Was Jesus' Purpose:
      - In Coming Into This Word:

- As The Door!
- So That You Might Have:
- Life!

3. But - What If You Already:
- Are One Of His Sheep?
    - And - You've Already Gone Through The Door:
      - And Have Safely Entered Into:
        - His Fold?
  - He Is Still The Door:
    - To The Abundant Life:
      - That You Can Have:
        - Through Him!
    - So - Keep Going To Him:
      - Because - His Potential & Promises & Purpose:
        - Remain The Same!

***Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace  
www.growatgrace.org  
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***