

# Christ, the Door

John 10:1-10

## Introduction

Today is frequently referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday in the church. Each year, the Gospel lesson is from a different part of the tenth chapter of *John*, sometimes called the “Good Shepherd” chapter. When we think of the shepherd/sheep motif, we think of Christ as the Good Shepherd. We are also used to Him being called the Lamb of God. But in our reading today, He says that He is the Door to the sheepfold. A door separates two things when shut and allows access when open. There are several doors mentioned throughout the Bible that point to Christ. We examine those today.

## The Ark Door

The first door is the Ark Door. There was one door on the ark. Everyone and everything that went into the ark went through that door. When Noah and his family, the last ones to enter the ark got in, *God shut the door (Genesis 7:16)*. This door is a picture of Law and Gospel, as everyone and everything on the outside were subject to the punishment of death and everyone and everything on the inside were saved by God’s grace. Christ is the door of the ark because all who are outside of Him will perish, while all who are inside of Him will be saved. Christ is the **DOOR TO SALVATION**.

## The Passover Door

(Read *Exodus 12:7, 12-13*) For the plague that would deliver the Israelites from bondage, God was going to take the life of all the first-born living in Egypt. The way the Israelites could be exempt from this plague was to take the blood of the Passover lamb that they were to eat and spread it on the door posts. Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb. His blood is not just a sign, as the blood of the Israelites’ Passover lamb was. His blood takes away our sin, so we don’t have to die for it and sets us free. Jesus Christ is the **DOOR TO FREEDOM**.

## The Temple’s Inner Doors

(Read *1Kings 6:19, 31-32*) Solomon’s temple was patterned after the tabernacle that Moses had built. Only it was a permanent building instead of a tent. The *inner sanctuary (1 Kings 6:19)* was the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. On the Mercy Seat, the top of the Ark was where God’s presence rested with His people. No one was allowed in this room except the high priest, and then just once a year, on the Day of Atonement. This was done annually to “roll back” the sins of the people for another year. However, (read *Hebrews 9:11-12*). Christ is our **DOOR TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**.

## The Sheep’s Door

When Christ calls Himself the *Door*, He is also calling Himself the *Shepherd*. In biblical times, shepherds rested in front of the doorway to the sheepfold. That’s why *thieves and robbers climb in another way (John 10:1)*. As the Door to the sheepfold, Christ guards the church. That’s why He can promise in *Matthew 16* that the gates of hell will never prevail against it (*Matthew 16:18*). He protects us with His Word. So, it is vital we stay true to the Word of God and take every opportunity to read and study it. Christ is the **DOOR TO THE CHURCH**.

## The Cross

Related to the concept of Christ being the Passover Lamb is the concept of the cross as a door. The punishment for sin is death. We are all doomed to die because of it. But God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to die in our place. On the cross, Jesus was our Substitute, our Sacrifice. He died in our place. As our Sacrifice, Christ is the **DOOR TO FORGIVENESS**.

## The Tomb's Door

At this time of year, our focus is on the resurrection and the empty tomb. All four Gospels relate that when the women got to the tomb, the stone had been rolled away. Why was that? It wasn't necessary for Jesus to be able to leave the tomb. He could walk through locked doors and appear and disappear at will. The stone was rolled away so the people could see the tomb was empty. The door was open, showing that a place of death was now a place of life. For in that tomb, Jesus had conquered death. Jesus is the **DOOR TO LIFE**.

## The Narrow Door

(Read **Matthew 7:13-14**) Jesus is the only Way to the Father. He is the only Door. It is narrow, not in the sense that we must toe the line and live by a certain strict set of rules. It's narrow in the sense that belief in Jesus and *only* in Jesus is the way through that Door. Many people would feel more comfortable with salvation if there was something they had to do to help. But that's not the way it is. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Faith in Christ's once-for-all death is the narrow way. Christ is the **NARROW DOOR**.

## Word and Sacrament

So, we see that Christ is the *Narrow Door to Salvation, Freedom, the Presence of God, the Church, Forgiveness, and Life*. We have access to this Door through Word and Sacrament. Through the Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, we enter the Door to forgiveness of sins and eternal life with the Father.

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*And the peace of God,  
Which surpasses all understanding,  
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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