



lêtheia
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
January 8, 2023
“One Way”

SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.

Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00

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Jesus used a rhetorical story known as a παροιμία (pā-řoy-mē-ä). Similar to a parable, it uses everyday _____ to make a single point that is then _____ to the situation.

II Peter 2:22, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.” That passage is about people not _____ in the Faith and falling away.

Jesus’ proverbial story means that the Jewish leaders were not _____ shepherds of the people at all – they were actually thieving robbers out to get what they could for themselves.

JOHN 10:6 ~

To clarify, they absolutely knew what the point of the story was, and that Jesus was applying it to them. They were dumbfounded as to _____ He could say that about them.

It is almost always the case that we are _____ to our own sin, especially when it is clothed in what we believe is our own righteousness.

From the Pharisee’s point of view, they were the ones protecting the sheep from _____.

JOHN 10:7-10 ~

Before Jesus can elaborate on His role as Shepherd, He must set the stage for what makes Him that. He must first set the record straight about His role beyond that of a _____ shepherd, which is His role is as the proxy between the sheep and their impending slaughter.

In His analogy, the door gives _____ to the abundant life for the sheep. They go out into the pasture where there is plentiful food and water, fresh air, and exercise. They go into the fold where there is protection from the wind and weather, as well as human and animal killers.

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

Jesus exists eternally as the only “Door.” In verse 7 Jesus makes a formal “I AM” statement. He takes the Covenantal Name of Almighty God and applies it to Himself. He is, as God is, pure eternal unchanging existence. In this case, Jesus eternally exists as the “_____” between God and mankind.

That means that He has _____ been the “Door” and will _____ be the “Door” – there cannot possibly be another “Door.”

The Truth is – period, full-stop. Let’s assume that the Bible conveys the Truth. Since Truth cannot _____ Truth, what the Bible says cannot be mitigated. Therefore, correct Biblical theology and doctrine is vital to grasping the Truth.

Heaven will be filled with Christians who had _____ theology in life, so what’s the big deal?

- 1) What you believe cannot help but _____ your attitudes, words, and behaviors.
- 2) Believing that there are other ways to God, _____ the sacrifice that Jesus made.

In verse 9 He repeated, “I AM the Door,” and then added “if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved.” Those words are out of place in His analogy, but He added them to _____ plainly that He, and only He, is the one and only means to get to God.

Between those two “I AM” statements Jesus further solidified His _____ with the negative or opposite aspect as well saying, “All of those who came before Me are thieving robbers.”

Remember the role He’s referring to is as the “_____,” not the “Shepherd.”

Abraham looked forward to Jesus’ day. You see, my friends, no one is going to Heaven through any “Door” other than Jesus. Abraham, the founder of the Jewish people, will be in Heaven because he’s a _____, not because he was the first Jew. God judges the _____.

Jesus was not saying that humans accepting Him as the “Door” would enjoy the grass of the pasture and the warmth of the fold. We would enjoy the thing that Jesus _____ into His analogy that did not fit. We “will be saved.” Salvation is the life that is abundant.

The Greek word is περισσόν (pě-řēs-sŏn), it is abundant in the sense that it is entirely _____. It is the quality of life where there is never any lack, or defect, or unfulfilled want.

(Philippians 4:11-13, II Corinthians 12:10, Revelation 21:3&4).

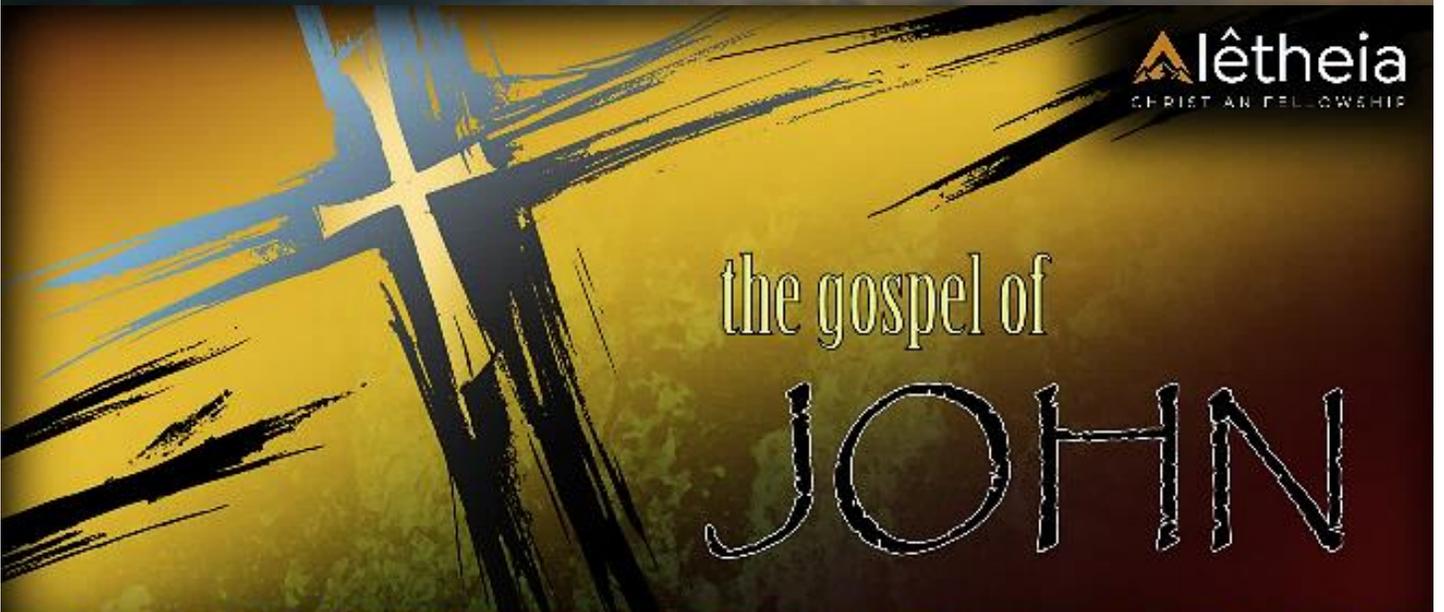
Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____



Alêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



We started chapter 10, with Jesus continuing to address the Jewish leaders who had reacted so poorly

to His healing of the man born blind. Not only had they repudiated Jesus for doing it, they abused the healed man and his parents.



Jesus used a rhetorical example known as a παροιμία (pä-roy-mē-ä) in Greek. While similar to a parable, it uses the most common sense, common place examples to make a single point that is then applied to the situation.



A great example is II Peter 2:22, “It has happened to them according to the true proverb (proverb is our word *παροιμία* again), “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.” Two simple proverbial sayings with the basic point that foolish animals will go right back to doing what caused them trouble in the first place. Through context we could apply that point to a lot of things.

Peter applied it to people who came into the Christian community from a life of dissipation, to only go back to their old life of dissipation once again.



That passage reads like a playbook for what is happening right now. Starting in verse 1 of II Peter, chapter 2, we see that “there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies (that’s bad doctrine) and even deny the Lord who bought them (this can be very subtle. The Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and other legalistic groups diminish the Lord’s work, which is denying Who He is). In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth (that’s Christ and Christianity) will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money.”

Dropping down to verse 18, They “brag about themselves with empty, foolish boasting. With an appeal to twisted sexual desires, they lure back into sin those who have barely escaped from a lifestyle of deception. They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you. And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life. They prove the truth of this proverb: “A dog returns to its vomit.” And another says, “A washed pig returns to the mud.”

The single point, now given the context, makes perfect sense. People who taste the freedom that only Jesus can give them, and then go back to their old ways without Him, are as mindless as animals who don't know any better. Likewise, Jesus' proverbial story means that the Jewish leaders were not true shepherds at all – they were actually thieving robbers

out to get what they could for themselves. You can see that Jesus' point and Peter's point are very similar.

If we didn't need to make intentional choices to remain in Christ, we wouldn't need most of the Bible. We are constantly warned, cajoled, and pleaded with to continue in the Faith.



Moving on, John 10:6, This figure of speech (that's παροιμία) Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

“They did not understand.” The paroemia (English) that Jesus told – “They did not understand”??? I’ve spent a

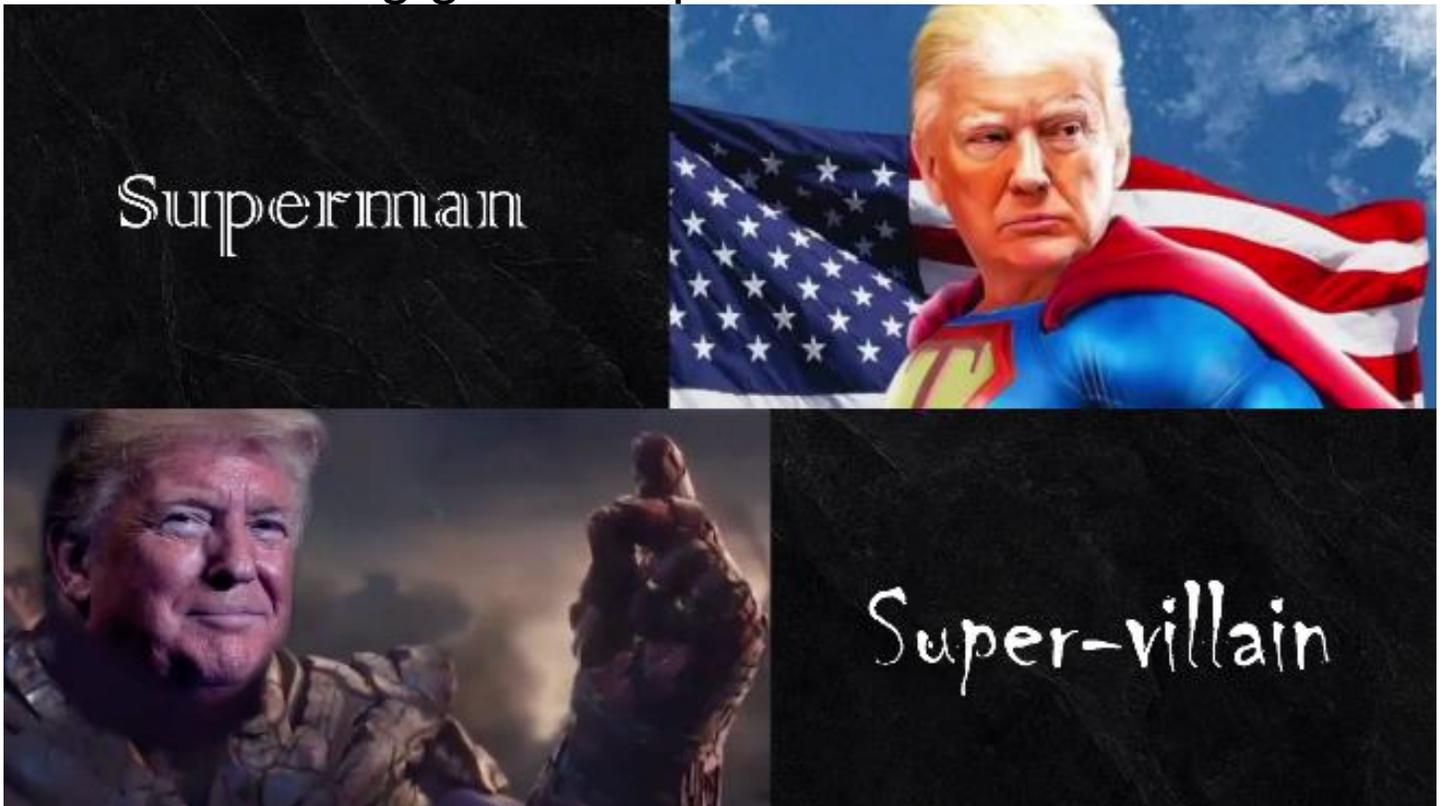
fair amount of time trying to convince you that this type of rhetorical story would have been immediately understood by everyone standing there that day. And here, we are told that they didn't get it. So, to clarify, they absolutely knew what the point of the story was, and they also absolutely knew that Jesus was applying the point to them. But they were dumbfounded as to how that point could possibly apply to them. That, they didn't get – at all. They were angrily bewildered.

To put it another way, the communication disconnect wasn't with what Jesus spoke with His mouth, but with what the people heard with their heart. That's what they refused to understand.

It is almost always the case that we are blind to our own sin, especially when it is clothed in what we believe is our own righteousness. That's a semi-profound concept that you ought to think about.

All people offend other people. If you disagree with that statement, I'll refer you to the previous one. All people offend other people and there are a lot of ways that we do that, from the relatively benign unintentional affront, all the way to the truly evil, unspeakable, and horrific violence of man's inhumanity to man.

What's incredible is people all along that spectrum rarely see what they are doing as wrong. Particularly, when they've convinced themselves that it is actually right. As far as the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders were concerned, their harsh treatment of the man's parents, their expulsion of the man himself into the outer darkness and their continued fight with Jesus was them being great shepherds!



There are some rational Americans who think that Donald Trump was the best president we've had, and they would love to see him in office again. There are other rational Americans who think that Donald Trump was worst president we've had, and they would hate to

see him in office again. I mean to tell you, hundreds of millions of seemingly reasonable people who could not possibly disagree more. How is that possible?

I watch both sides and I can tell you for certain that they each paint the other as ignorant, uninformed, and downright evil. That's how they would say that it is possible – the people who disagree with them are unreasoning beasts that should be put down.

Maybe both sides are right about that, but probably, the truth is that each side refuses to see the other side as their fellow Americans who simply have a different perspective.



Not too long ago there were groups that put people from the two extreme camps together and they moderated conversations about the issues on which they clashed. In all cases, they found common ground, they realized that they agreed far more than they disagreed, and most shockingly, they discovered that the people on the other side were also concerned, decent citizens, hoping for a better future.

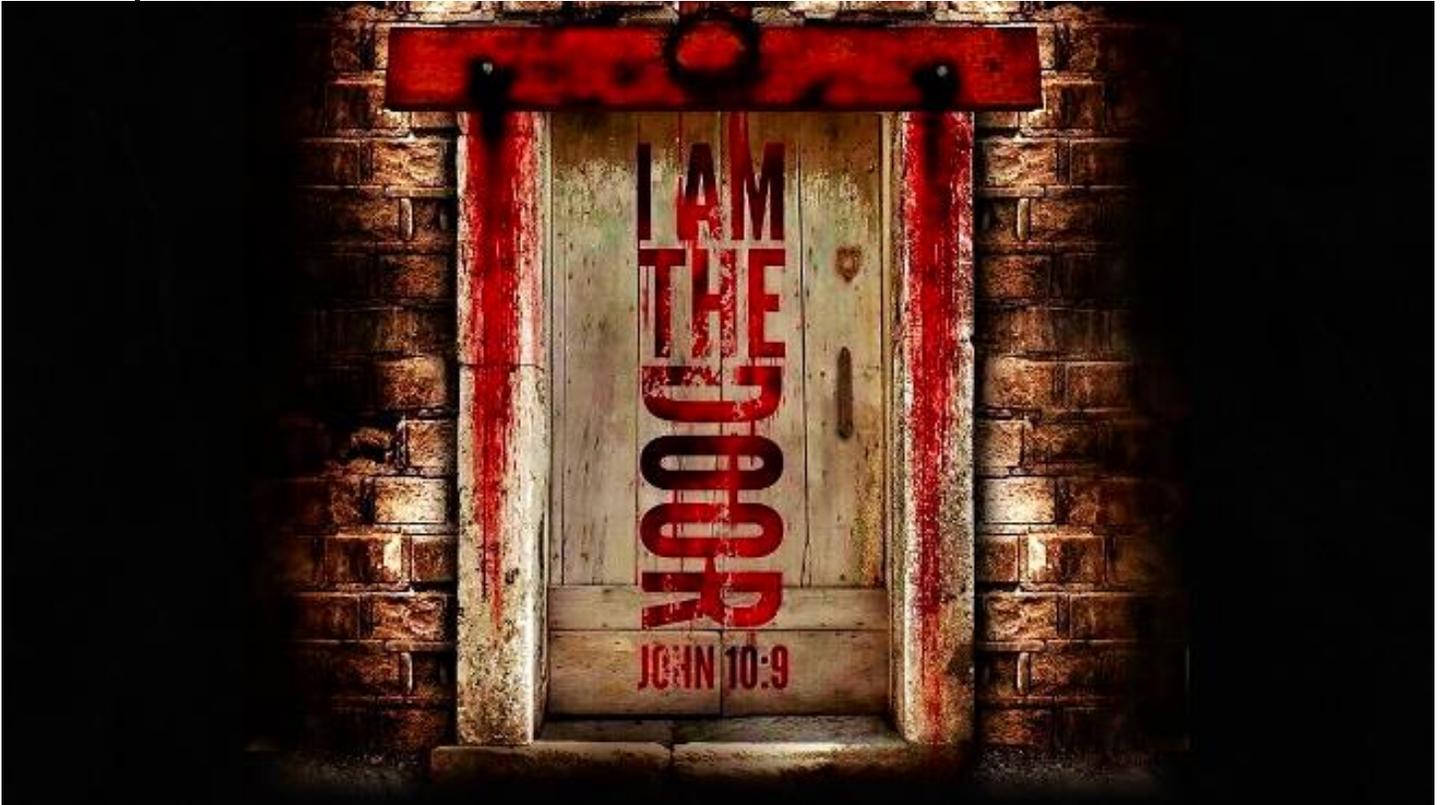
With the state of things now, I sincerely doubt even the most talented moderator could get such harmony from a similar exercise. In my recent conversations with people on both sides, I see a deeper entrenchment and an instant malevolent reaction at the slightest suggestion that the opposing side might have a point. It devolves immediately into childish and sinful name calling.



It should be easy to understand that from the Pharisee's point of view, they were the ones protecting the sheep from a great evil – a blatant Sabbath breaker. How in the world could Jesus' proverbial story apply to them? Again, from their perspective, it was exactly the opposite, they were the true shepherds officially, properly, put in charge of the sheep. Jesus was the one from the outside trying to gain access to the sheep by some unauthorized way and steal them for His own purposes.

They no doubt thought, that's a great proverbial story – the point is well taken – it's just that it should be applied negatively to Jesus, not to us.

Because of that, Jesus decided to explain why His negative application to the leaders was correct by staying with the same basic rhetorical style and metaphorical theme.



John 10:7-10, 7So 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.

What? Now He's the door? I thought Jesus was the shepherd in the scenario. Well, He was, and He will be again in next section, but before He can elaborate on His role as Shepherd, He must set the stage for what makes Him the One True Shepherd.

Because that foundational aspect of His role goes far beyond normal human shepherding, the Shepherding analogy breaks down. You can see it most clearly in verse 9 where Jesus repeated His claim to be the "Door" and described passing through the "Door" as Salvation. We'll get there, just know for now, that because it is necessary for Jesus to sacrifice His life on behalf of the sheep, the correlation gets strained here and that's why He's now the "Door."

Remember, there is no such thing as a perfect analogy. This is another area where well-meaning people interpret the Bible incorrectly. There is this tremendous desire for modern people in the west to be extremely literal. An analogy was never intended to be taken literally at every point. It is intentionally a metaphor used to help the audience understand a similar point, not an exact correspondence.



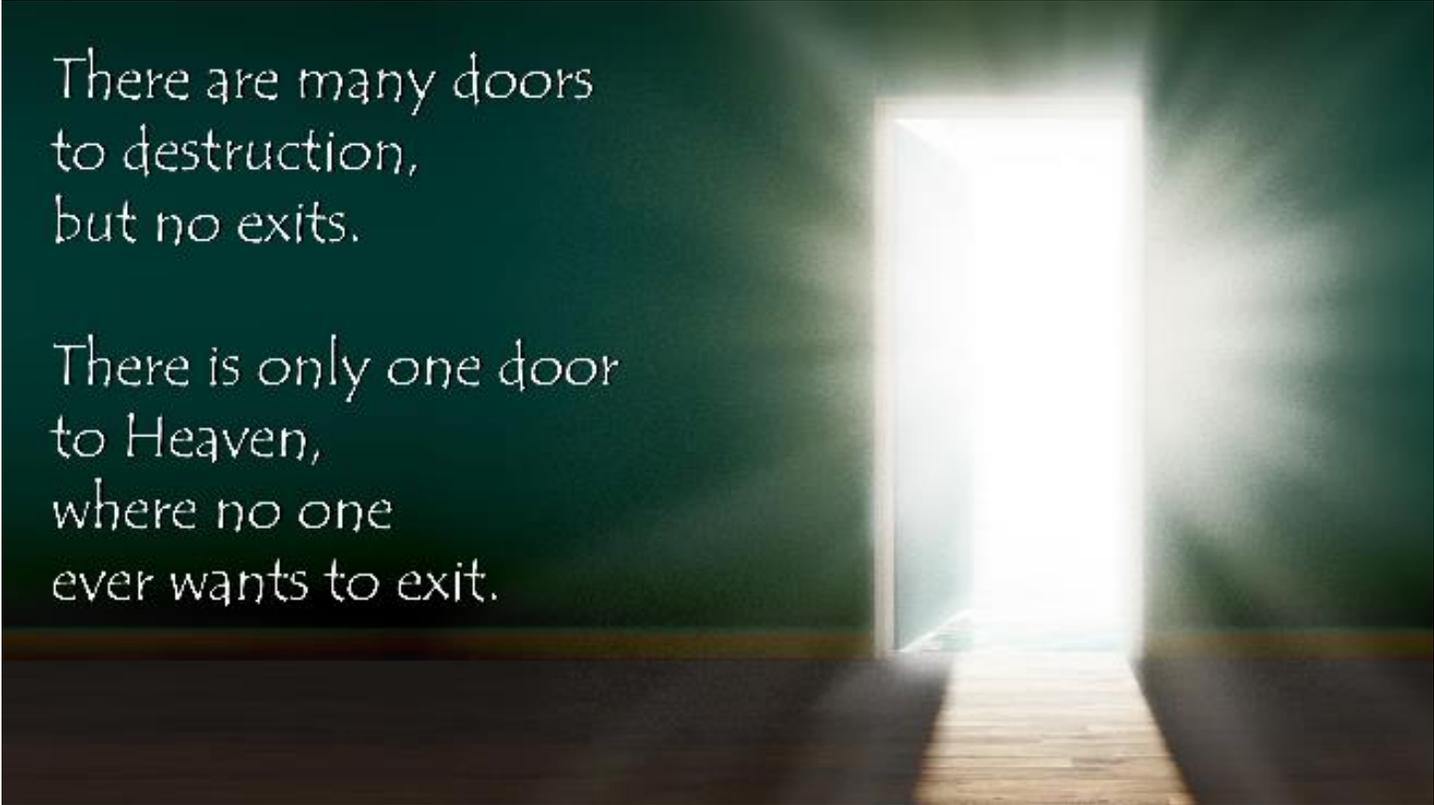
As we will see, a human shepherd may risk his life protecting the sheep from thieving robbers as well as from voracious animals, and he may be killed in the process, but that's far different than voluntarily taking the place of his sheep in the slaughter. No human shepherd sacrifices his life without a struggle so that his sheep can live. He doesn't say to the thieving robber, or the pack of wolves, you can kill and eat me, if you leave my sheep alone.

So, by necessity, Jesus must first set the record straight about His role beyond that of a normal shepherd, which is His role is as the proxy between the sheep and their impending slaughter. Not only is He

the Door leading away from their appointed massacre, but positively then, He's the Door that leads them to life. He could be said to be the mediator between them and death, but to look at it from the other side, He's the mediator between them and life.

In His analogy, the door gives access to the abundant life for the sheep. They use the door to go out into the pasture where there is plentiful food and water, as well as fresh air and exercise. They use the door to go into the fold where there is protection from the wind and weather, as well as from both human and animal killers.

As a preview, what is "life" beyond this analogy? Salvation from eternal death into eternal life in the presence, not of pasture and fold, but of God... relationally. The Door ultimately then is the bridge between God and man. Jesus is the Door.



There are many doors
to destruction,
but no exits.

There is only one door
to Heaven,
where no one
ever wants to exit.

Jesus exists eternally as the only “Door.” If that seems like a leap, it’s confirmed by verse 7, where Jesus, after another of His dramatic “Amen, amen, I say unto you all,” openings, makes another of His formal “I AM” statements. He takes the Covenantal Name of Almighty God and applies it to Himself as He is, as God is, pure eternal unchanging existence.

In this case, Jesus eternally exists as the “Door” between God and mankind. That means that He has always been the “Door” and will always be the “Door” – there cannot possibly be another “Door.”

Do you see what I mean? Does that make sense? This is actually important and profound and so we need to get it right. The way Jesus said those few words, “I AM the Door,” means that there cannot possibly be any other “Door” between Almighty God the Creator of everything and His human creatures.

If anyone wants to get to where God is, they must go through the “Door” that is Jesus. This simple statement proves both the fundamental foundational Christian doctrine that Jesus is the One and Only Mediator between God and man.



I know, every religion claims to be the only way, or, at the very least, the best way. Within Christianity itself,

nearly every denomination makes that same claim. It's not enough to be a Christian, you must be the right kind of Christian. So, a claim that Jesus is the only possible way to eternal life seems quite preposterous.

The Truth is – period, full-stop. Meaning that the Truth is the Truth regardless of anyone's contrary feelings on the matter. For Truth to be relative, by literal definition means that it's not Truth.

Satan has most people believing that Truth is the same thing as personal opinion. Well, it's not. They are two entirely different things. You can have the opinion that the earth is flat, but that in no way changes the Truth.

The issue is how can we discover the Truth. I'll have to save that for another day. For us here and now we will assume that the Bible conveys the Truth. That assumption requires that anything contrary to the Bible Truth would therefore be false. Truth cannot contradict Truth.

52% of Americans who claim to be Christian, believe that *“if a person is generally good, or does enough good things during their life, they will ‘earn’ a place in heaven.”*

Catholics **70%** - Pentecostals **46%** - Traditional Protestants **44%**
Evangelicals **41%**.

Based on age groups:

People aged 18 to 29... **80%** - People aged 30-39... **70%**.

The church is doing a terrible job of imparting the Gospel... even to its own members!

With that then, correct Biblical theology and doctrine is vital to grasping the Truth. Unfortunately, the Christian community as a whole is either not teaching it, or the people simply refuse to accept it, but as I said last Sunday only a measly 22% of Evangelical Christians actually believe all the basic tenets of Evangelical Christianity. That's less than 1, so-called Bible-believing Christian, in 4 accepts the foundational doctrines.

One such unequivocal absolute doctrine is that there is no way that anyone in the entire sweep of human history is getting into Heaven apart from Salvific belief in Jesus. You can disagree with that doctrine, as

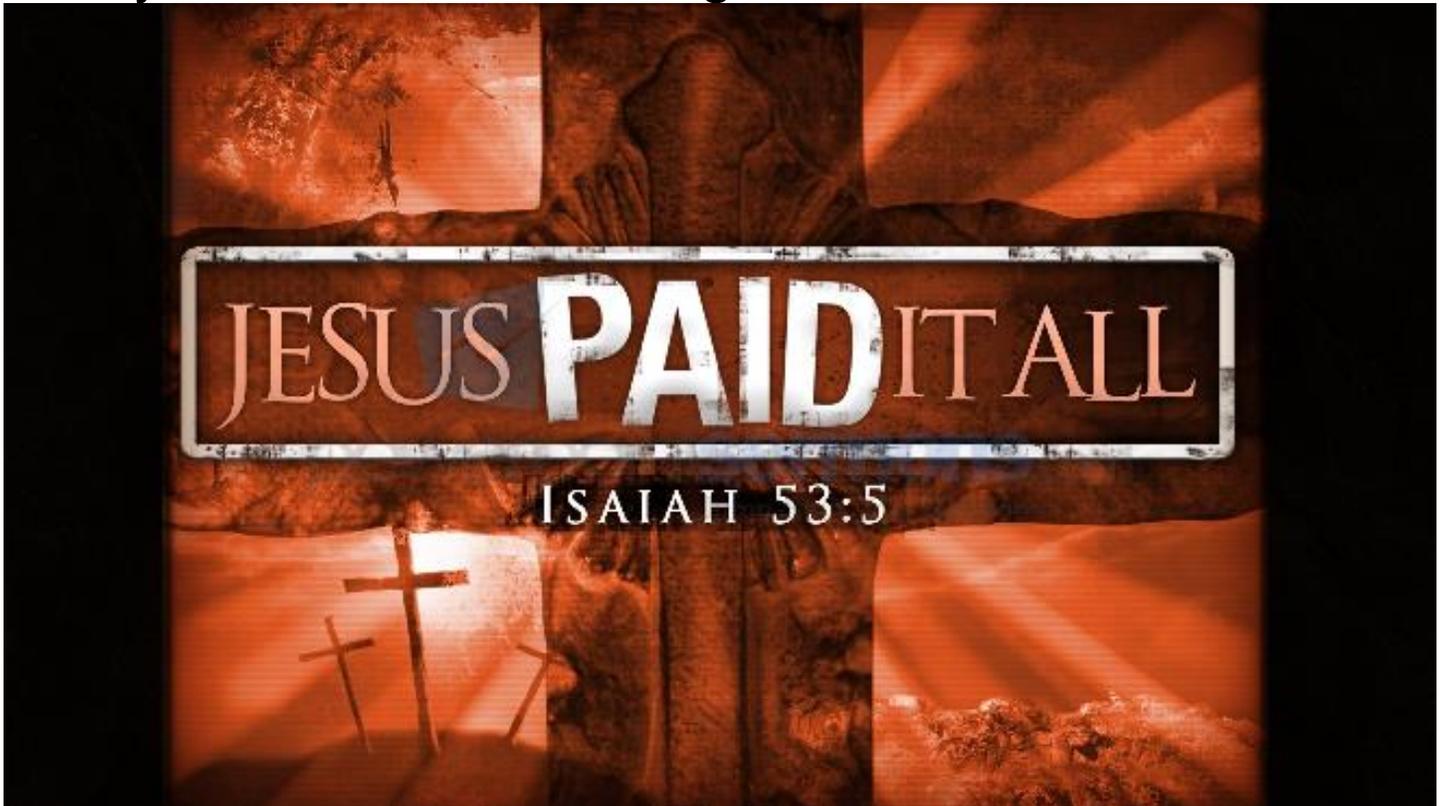
evidently a lot of people do, but if you are one of them, please accept the fact that you are not a Bible believing Christian.

Just to clarify, I'm not saying that you must believe that statement to be a Christian or go to Heaven. Heaven will be filled with Christians who had imperfect theology in life. What I'm saying is that if you disagree with that tenet and end up in Heaven, it will only be because you believed in Jesus, even though, you didn't believe His Word.

You may think fine, I'll have my cake and eat it too. I'll believe in Jesus and go to Heaven, but I won't be controversial and believe the bits of the Bible I find distasteful. I'm guessing that's what a lot of Americans are doing. What's the big deal?

First, what you believe is incredibly important as it cannot help but influence your attitudes, then your words, and then your behaviors. The person who believes that Trump is a hero, will, over time, conduct themselves quite differently than they would if they believed that Trump was a narcissistic manipulator. Right? Far different attitudes, words, and deeds, over time depending on what one believes. Ideas are so

unimaginably important, and none are more important than your beliefs concerning God.



Second, if you believe that there are other ways to God outside of trust in Jesus alone, you diminish the sacrifice that Jesus made. The Heavenly Father gave up Jesus to be a human being, to be ridiculed and abused, to be tortured and murdered, but if you'd rather approach God through another religion, through meditation, vegetarianism, and yoga, through giving to charity and doing nice deeds, I'm sure it will be okay.

Someone may think that I've overplayed the "I AM the Door," declaration ... Well, let's see. Jesus went on to say in verse 9 the same thing again "I AM the Door,"

and then added “if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved.” There is no way that in the Fourth Gospel and in this present context, that statement can mean anything other than eternal Salvation.

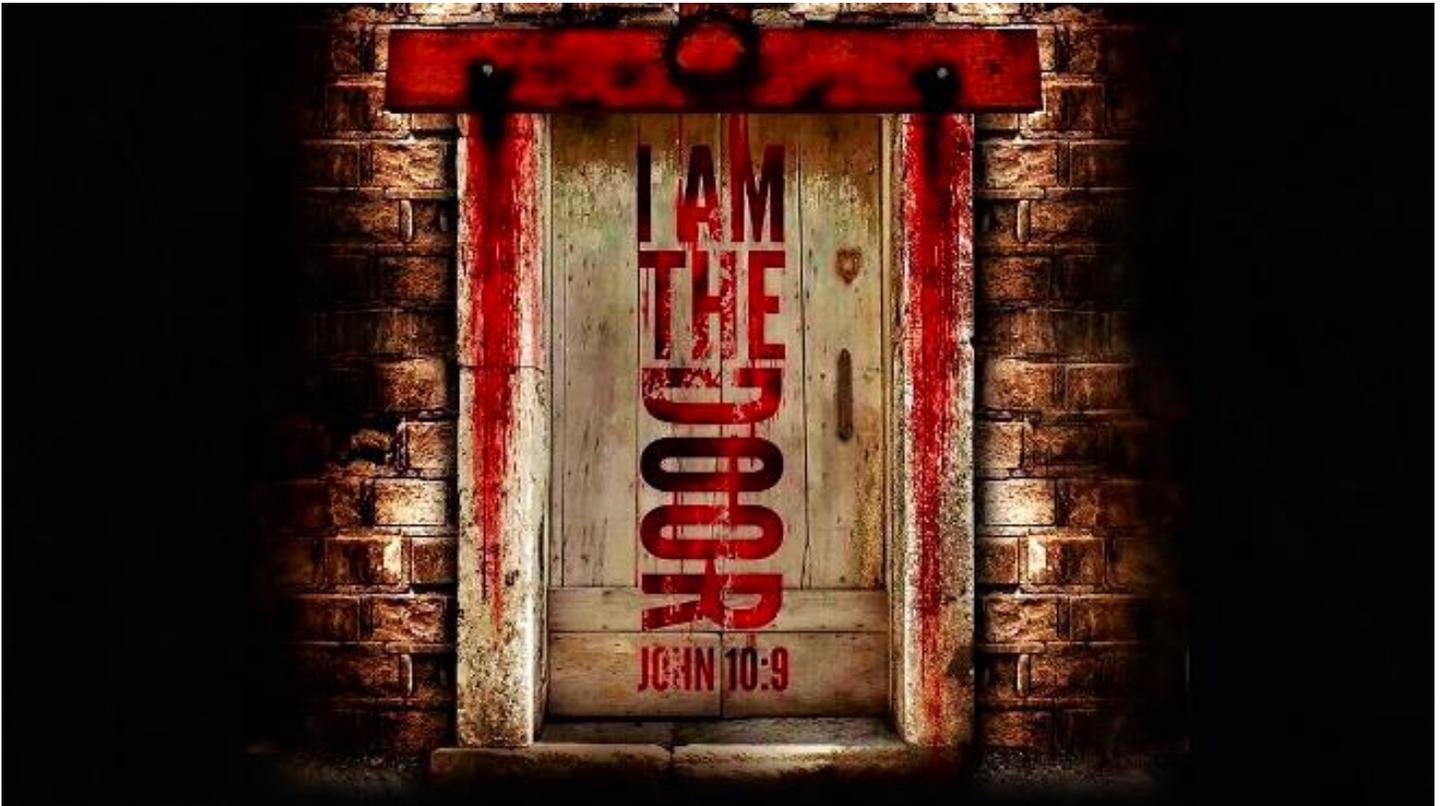
As I mentioned, those words are out of place in His analogy, but He added them to confirm in plain words what any reasonable Christian had already deduced from two back-to-back “I AM the Door” pronouncements – that He, and only He, is the one and only means to get to God. “Anyone” is all-inclusive. Anyone using Jesus as the conduit to God will be Saved.

Between those two “I AM” statements Jesus further solidified His claim with the negative or opposite aspect as well saying, “All of those who came before Me are thieving robbers.”



Well, what does that mean? “All who came before Me,” would naturally be understood to mean that all of those who came before Jesus on the physical timeline. The people who preceded Him – they were “thieving robbers.” That immediately brings up two problems. 1) The first is it would include all the Patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. All the Prophets, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel. All the Judges, like Gideon, Deborah, and Samuel. All the Kings like, David, Solomon, and Hezekiah and all the Priests, like Aaron, Ezra, and Joshua. All of them were evil, out for themselves, “thieving robbers,” just like the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus’ day? Is that what Jesus meant?

A lot of people have a hard time with that and so they minimize this bit and just move on, but not us. What could Jesus have meant – was He really saying that everyone before Him was evil? Was He implying that no one after Him was evil? 2) Because that's the second problem. He didn't mention those who would come after Him – what about them?



The answer becomes clear when we recognize both problems simultaneously. The key is to focus on the role He's referring to – the “Door” metaphor, not the “Shepherd” metaphor. Jesus wasn't saying that there weren't good shepherds, He was saying that there had never ever been a “Door” before Him. That then

alleviates the second problem as well. Once Jesus established Himself as the one true “Door,” there cannot be any doors to follow Him either – the “Door,” ever since, is already in place.

Two “I AM” statements, a positive statement about Salvation and now a negative statement about the falsity of any other door. What more could Jesus have said to plainly demonstrate that has always been the only doorway to God?

Therefore, everyone who came before Him claiming to be the “Door” – claiming to be able to mediate God, claiming to grant life, claiming to grant entrance into Heaven, claiming to be a conduit for God, was a “thief and a robber,” just like the Jewish leaders of the 1st century.

Father Abraham knew that there was a mediator between himself, and God and he knew that he was not that guy. Abraham looked forward to Jesus’ day.

You see, my friends, no one is going to Heaven through any “Door” other than Jesus. Father Abraham the founder of Judaism will be in Heaven because he’s a Christian, not because he was the first Jew.

All those other Godly men and women through the ages all looked forward to the Messiah and the Salvation that only God could bring through His chosen instrument, Who is Jesus. There is no other way, and to say that there is, is to call Jesus a liar.

God judges the heart. Does that mean that a “good person,” who rejects Jesus will go to Heaven? No. Does that mean that a “person receptive to God” who never heard about Jesus will go to Heaven? Maybe. We cannot know the precise mechanism of how God will be fair, but we know Him and so we must trust Him. Trust that our God will do what is perfectly good and then we must accept whatever that perfectly good thing turns out to be.



Moving on, Jesus then said that the true sheep were not led astray. What that means is that despite appearances, God always has His remnant. People have made a monstrous mess, but God will always have His true people somewhere – they are the people who will look only to Him for their Salvation.

Then Jesus went on to give us the perspective of the sheep. Those sheep refusing to utilize the one door are either trapped outside of the fold or they are trapped inside of the fold. Neither of which is good. Those sheep who accept the door and know how to use it pass back and forth enjoying both the wonderful

pasture outside and also the necessary safety inside. They have life and have it abundantly.



Let's talk about that last line. Name it and claim it types use Jesus' words here to validate their nonsensical health and wealth, prosperity gospel. The "abundant life" is qualitative, not quantitative. For the sheep in the analogy, it has to do with a great quality of life for them – a full life – an abundant life for a sheep. They enjoy all the benefits of coming and going through the door.

But don't forget, Jesus wants us to apply His analogy point to the spiritual reality that He's really talking about. As we've seen, the analogy, like all analogies, doesn't perfectly correspond. We need to use the

analogy as a general similarity, not an exact representation.

Jesus was not saying that humans accepting Him as the “Door” would enjoy the grass of the pasture and the warmth of the fold. We would enjoy the thing that Jesus inserted into His analogy that did not fit. “He will be saved.” Salvation is the life that is abundant.

The Greek word is περισσόν (pě-řēs-sŏn), which starts with the preposition peri, as in perimeter. Peri has the root meaning of encircling or surrounding and so typically means “around.” Because of that, in the right context, it also means “about.” And so “concerning” or “regarding.” See how a word with the idea of encircling moves to the idea of regarding? Well, it moves even further to the idea of envelopment, or enclosing, giving the idea of fullness, and completeness.

So, the word as used here, is that fullness idea with an ending that refers to quality. It is abundant in the sense that it is entirely complete or fulfilled. It is the quality of life where there is never any lack, or defect, or unfulfilled want.

Let me simply ask you... Has there ever been a Christian, since Jesus Ascended into Heaven, who has had everything that their heart desired without any lack whatsoever? I'm talking physically, literally. Who wants to suffer loss, who wants to be rejected by others, who wants to be ill, who wants to die? Never – it is impossible and foolish. Yet this is what the prosperity gospel preachers want people to believe.

Okay, if that's not what Jesus had in mind what is it? In what remains of this life, I think you've already deduced the answer. A person can have everything that their heart desires by being content with what they have. A mature Christian recognizes the fleetingness of this life and the Goodness of God and simply trusts Him. That's the abundant life Jesus was speaking about in the here and now.



It's what the Apostle Paul discussed in Philippians 4:11-13, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." It's the same thing that he was talking about in II Corinthians 12:10, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."



Then, obviously, there is the life beyond this mortal coil. That really will be perfection, as it says in Revelation 21:3&4, 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Salvation in verse 9, and the abundant life in verse 10, speak of the “Door” as the gateway to eternal life in Heaven, but also the contented life here. Accepting

Jesus as the “Door” grants access to God Himself. It is an abiding relationship between parent and child. He loves and cares for us and we love Him and trust in His care. It is a relationship beginning the moment you cross the threshold and lasts for all eternity.



Sandwiched between the positive Salvation and Abundant Life is the negative aspect in the beginning of verse 10. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” All those who claimed that they were the “Door,” before Christ firmly established Himself as the only “Door,” were “thieves who came only to steal and kill and destroy.”

It should be even more obvious that now that the “Door” has been firmly established by Jesus, everyone trying to be the “Door,” even in part, are really only “thieves who come only to steal and kill and destroy.”



Imagine a bunch of sheep who absolutely refuse to use the door. Perhaps they try to move between the pen and the pasture by creating their own door, perhaps they consign themselves to one side of the door or the other and abandon plans to have what’s on both sides. The point is, the sheep who refuse to use the only door provided cannot move freely between good pasture where food, water, and exercise is abundant and the sheepfold where there is protection from thieving robbers, wild animals, and the weather. The abundant

life is the life where all of that is yours only because of the door.



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JOHN 10:6 ~

To clarify, they absolutely knew what the point of the story was, and that Jesus was applying it to them. They were dumbfounded as to how He could say that about them.

It is almost always the case that we are blind to our own sin, especially when it is clothed in what we believe is our own righteousness.

From the Pharisee’s point of view, they were the ones protecting the sheep from Jesus.

JOHN 10:7-10 ~

Before Jesus can elaborate on His role as Shepherd, He must set the stage for what makes Him that. He must first set the record straight about His role beyond that of a normal shepherd, which is His role is as the proxy between the sheep and their impending slaughter.

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Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

Jesus exists eternally as the only “Door.” In verse 7 Jesus makes a formal “I AM” statement. He takes the Covenantal Name of Almighty God and applies it to Himself. He is, as God is, pure eternal unchanging existence. In this case, Jesus eternally exists as the “Door” between God and mankind.

That means that He has always been the “Door” and will always be the “Door” – there cannot possibly be another “Door.”

The Truth is – period, full-stop. Let’s assume that the Bible conveys the Truth. Since Truth cannot contradict Truth, what the Bible says cannot be mitigated. Therefore, correct Biblical theology and doctrine is vital to grasping the Truth.

Heaven will be filled with Christians who had imperfect theology in life, so what’s the big deal?

- 1) What you believe cannot help but influence your attitudes, words, and behaviors.
- 2) Believing that there are other ways to God, diminishes the sacrifice that Jesus made.

In verse 9 He repeated, “I AM the Door,” and then added “if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved.” Those words are out of place in His analogy, but He added them to confirm plainly that He, and only He, is the one and only means to get to God.

Between those two “I AM” statements Jesus further solidified His claim with the negative or opposite aspect as well saying, “All of those who came before Me are thieving robbers.”

Remember the role He’s referring to is as the “Door,” not the “Shepherd.”

Abraham looked forward to Jesus’ day. You see, my friends, no one is going to Heaven through any “Door” other than Jesus. Abraham, the founder of the Jewish people, will be in Heaven because he’s a Christian, not because he was the first Jew. God judges the heart.

Jesus was not saying that humans accepting Him as the “Door” would enjoy the grass of the pasture and the warmth of the fold. We would enjoy the thing that Jesus inserted into His analogy that did not fit. We “will be saved.” Salvation is the life that is abundant.

The Greek word is περισσόν (pě-řēs-sŏn), it is abundant in the sense that it is entirely complete. It is the quality of life where there is never any lack, or defect, or unfulfilled want.

(Philippians 4:11-13, II Corinthians 12:10, Revelation 21:3&4).

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ Email _____