

#3 - I AM Series

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Women's Retreat. Registration begins today. *See Theme.*
- B. Slide3 CMCS Preview Night and Open House. *read bulletin. 25th Anniv.*
- C. Slide4,5 Easter Times & Volunteers needed...*Friendly? have we a job for you. Richy in booth*
- D. Slide6 Sun Night of Prayer Tonight. 6:30-7:30pm. *Lifting up the needs of the church.*
- E. Slide7 Daylight Savings Time. Change clocks before you come to church.

II. Slide8 Intro: I Am the Door

- A. Slide9 We will be looking at **3 choice privileges** of entering into God's Sheepfold this morning: It's Jesus who gives *salvation, security & satisfaction* to *all who enter here*.
 1. In **Dante's Divine Comedy** (the poem's imaginative vision of the afterlife, 14cent) he shares the *supposed* inscription at the **entrance** to **Hell**, *Abandon all hope ye who enter here*.
 2. Slide10a We can affix **a different sign** at the entrance to **this Door** we are talking about this morning. **Abandon yourself** ye who enter here. **Or, Gain all hope** ye who enter here.
- B. Slide10b So far in our *I Am series* we've looked at *Bread of Life & Light of the World*.
- C. Now in Jn10 we have 2 more implicit claims to deity from Jesus: *I Am the Door. I Am the Good Shepherd*. A mixing of 2 metaphors.
 1. Though in the same chapter, we **distinguish** between them (because don't mean the same thing) **but never separate** them (because they're so close to the other).
- D. Let's read Jn.10:1-10 [1-5, its *instruction*. 6-10 its *interpretation*]
- E. Context: What is immediately before these statements of ch.10? [ch.9 *the man born blind*]
 1. Jesus became **the door/entrance** into eternal life for this *former* blind man.
 2. Jesus became also became his **Good Shepherd**. The Pharisees, who were called to be shepherds to God's people, were like thieves & robbers. But they had no real concern for *the sheep of Israel...especially this poor blind sheep*.
 - a) Remember the religious leaders **excommunicated** the newly healed blind man - attempting to *slam the door of God in his face*.

b) Little did they realize that they'd actually *freed him* from their *man-made house of hell* to find the **true Door** who opens heaven to us all.

F. Explain **2 different types of sheep-folds**. [communal & individual]

1. **Communal sheep-fold** - see vs.2,3. **A walled in structure.**

a) Shepherds would bring their flocks there at night & entrust them to the shepherd (porter). The shepherd would return the next morning, call for his sheep, they would know his voice & come out.

2. **Slide11 Individual sheep-fold** - see vs.7,9. **An open air structure.** Usually made of stones piled up in a circle, with 1 entrance where the shepherd would sit & become its door. **These were used in the warm months** when the sheep could stay out on the hillsides.

III. Slide12 **SALVATION** (Jn.10:9a) *Jesus our Savior*

A. **Salvation** the entire process of **soul-health**.

B. Slide13 **I am the door.** If anyone enters by Me, he **will be saved**.

1. By nature we are *separated, alienated* from God.

2. **Sin** is the barrier that comes in between **and** bars us out of *His holy presence*.

C. Slide14 **I am the door.**

1. This door speaks of **easy ingress**. A **door** is contrasted from *a long, dark, dreary, hallway* (or walkway: Border crossing of Israel/Jordan). It takes **just one step**, and those who were on the *outside* are now *within*.

D. Slide15 **I am the door.**

1. Just as there was only **one door** into the Ark in which Noah and his family found shelter & security from the flood. **Just as there was only one door into the Tabernacle/Temple.** **So** there is only **one door** into the presence of the Father.

a) Jn.14:6 **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

b) Eph.2:18 **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

(1) **So, we base our claim for entrance...upon Him Alone!**

E. Slide16 I am the door. If anyone enters **by Me**, he will be saved.

1. Not, just if anyone *enters* through the door...**but** it is specifically by *Jesus*.
2. Note in Lk.15:4,5 *What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.* [the sheep enter through the door into God's presence **because** Christ *brings them*]
3. The church is not the door. Your good works are not the door. Church attendance is not the door. Your money donated to charity is not the door. *Jesus is the door.*
 - a) Jesus is the *only* door, an *open* door, a *narrow* door, a *safe* door.

IV. Slide17 **SECURITY** (Jn.10:9b) *Jesus our Protector*

A. Slide18 I am the door. If anyone **enters** by Me, he will be saved, and **will go in and out**.

1. **In and out**. Egress **and** Ingress (exit & entry).
2. He goes in and out at his pleasure...*this is freedom*.
3. When he goes **in**, is not shut in like a **criminal**. When he goes **out**, he is not shut out like a **stranger**.
 - a) If you went **in** **and** couldn't get **out**, that would be a **prison**.
 - b) If you went **out** **and** couldn't get back **in**, you would be a **stranger**.
4. At night they would go **in** for **protection**. **In the morning** they would go **out** for **food**.
5. **This expresses perfect freedom**. Vastly different from the Israelites under the law of Moses. [The sheep-fold which had been a **prison**, Jesus turned into a **refuge**]
6. It's interesting that in **Neh.3** that of the **10 gates** (entering Jerusalem. Neh was rebuilding) the sheep gate was the only one with no *bars & locks* mentioned.

V. Slide19 **SATISFACTION** (Jn.10:9c, 10b) *Jesus our Provider*.

A. Slide20 And will go in and out and **find pasture**.

1. Of course reminds us of the famous Ps.23 *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.*
2. The *pastures* then, speak not only of food, but of rest as well.
3. Isaiah said it this way, *They will be my sheep, grazing in green pastures and on hills that were previously bare. 10 They will neither hunger nor thirst. The searing sun will not reach them anymore. For the Lord in his mercy will lead them; he will lead them beside cool waters.* Is.49:9,10 nlt

B. *Slide21 Which moves us to vs.10b.* Oh, let us **not** be content **until** our life has become **abundant** life. **Because...our life**, cost the Shepherd **His life**.

1. **Life** speaks to *being saved*, **while abundance** speaks to *finding pasture*.
2. The **life** Jesus gave is unique because it is **eternal**. **And** this life in Him is thus *ever-growing* in **abundance**.

C. **Abundant Life?**

1. Jesus is **not** promising an **abundance of things**. **Rather**, it's the image of a shepherd leading his sheep **to feed** in the green pastures. **To drink** water from streams that were safe (still waters). Of pursuing the stray sheep, keeping them away from harm. **And** making sure that they find **life and abundance and health**. Only He knows what is best for them.
2. This is, *Constant sustenance for our soul*.

D. **Christians should have...such abundant life** that their **circumstances** shouldn't be able to overcome them. **such abundant life** that in **poverty** they are **rich**.
such abundant life that in **sickness** they are in **spiritual health**.
such abundant life that in **disappointments** they are full of **triumph**.
such abundant life that in **death** they are full of **glory**.

E. **Abundant life** then is *truly living life to the fullest*. It's a life filled with **excitement & adventure**.

F. **Wrap Up:** I am the door. If anyone enters **by Me**, he will be saved, and will go in and out and **find pasture**. 7 blessings & benefits are mentioned here:

1. **Slide22a-g I Am the door** - Jesus is the only way to God.
2. **By Me** if anyone enters - Jesus allows people in.
3. If **anyone** enters - Jew or gentile.
4. If anyone **enters** - Christ is appropriated by *a single act* of faith.
5. He will be **saved** - Jesus delivers one from the *penalty*, the *power*, & ultimately from the *presence* of **sin**.
6. And will **go in and out** - Jesus frees us from all bondage.
7. And find **pasture** - Jesus sustains all who enter in.

G. Have you come **IN** the only door provided? Have you gone **OUT**? Have you found **pasture**? *Have you found salvation, security & satisfaction in Jesus?*

H. **Communion:** Entering the door of salvation we find ourselves *also being blessed with a* place of communion, a banqueting table, & a storehouse of blessings & promises.

1. **Bread** -
2. **Cup** - Thank you for **liberty** & **plenty**. Salvation, security, & satisfaction.
For a door, the only way, to have health & wholeness.