

The Reward of Kingdom Living!

John 10:9-10 (CSB) *I am the gate. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.*

John 16:33 (CSB) *I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."*

I. The Promise?

John 10:9-10 (NASB 2020) *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

Pasture: pastorage, fodder, food. A. fig. he shall not want the needful supplies for the true life; growth, increase

Throughout Scripture, pasture becomes a theological picture of everything God provides for His covenant people: provision, rest, security, guidance, flourishing, God's presence, and even participation in His Kingdom. Jesus intentionally chose this imagery because His disciples would have immediately recognized it.

Psalms 23:1-3 (NASB 2020) *The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need. He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness **for the sake of His name.***

Notice what the pasture includes: Rest, Peace, Provision, Guidance, Restoration!

Hebrews 4:9-11 (CSB) *Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God's people. For the person who has entered his rest has rested from his own works, just as God did from his. Let us, then, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of **disobedience.***

II. How do we experience this Rest!

John 10:9 (NASB 2020) *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

So many try entering the Peace, Joy, Rest, and Provision of Christ without going through the door! This life can only be entered through Jesus!

Saved: g4982. σώζω sōzō; from a primary σώς sōs (contraction for obsolete σάος saos, "safe"); to save, i.e. deliver or protect (literally or figuratively): — heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

John 10:10 (NASB 2020) *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.*

We enter through Loving

****John 13:14-17 (NASB 2020)** *So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you. Vs. 17 **If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.***

****John 15:9-13 (NASB 2020)** *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.*

Romans 12:1 (NASB95) *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

John 13:34-35 (CSB) *"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Love is not merely an emotion in John's Gospel; it is the evidence of abiding in Christ. John intentionally moves from a relationship with Christ to love for one another to witness to the world.

The battle with flesh!

Galatians 5:13-14 (CSB) *For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Jesus never separates love from service. Paul never separates freedom from service. Today, our culture defines freedom as: "I get to do what I want."

Jesus and Paul define freedom as: "I have been freed so I can love and serve others." That is a completely different understanding of freedom.

III. The Suffering

John 15:18 (CSB) "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you." Vs. 25 But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: **They hated me for no reason.**

John 15:20 (CSB) Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

2 Timothy 3:12 (CSB) In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Mark 10:29-30 (CSB) "Truly I tell you," Jesus said, "there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, who will not receive a hundred times more, now at this time — houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, **with persecutions** — and eternal life in the age to come.

IV. The Reward for Loving

John 14:21 (NASB 2020) The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and **will reveal Myself to him.**

The Greek word is ἐμφανίζω (emphanizō). It means: to make visible, to make known, to disclose, to manifest!

There are aspects of Christ's character, faithfulness, power, peace, and joy that are only discovered as we obey Him and participate in His mission.

Think of the disciples: Did they know Jesus as Provider before feeding the five thousand? Did they know Him as Lord over the storm before the Sea of Galilee? Did they know His resurrection power before Easter morning?

Every act of obedience became an opportunity for a greater revelation of Christ. Likewise, believers today often discover Christ's faithfulness, peace, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit most deeply as they obey Him, love His people, and bear fruit.

John 10:9-10 (NASB 2020) I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and (he) will go in and out and (he) will find pasture.

John 14:27 – Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.

John 15:11 – "I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and **your joy may be complete.**"

John 16:24 – Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

John 16:33 – "I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace."
