

The Good Shepherd Accessing Eternal Life

Jon Benzinger

John 10:7-10

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Hey, Redeemer family. It is so good to see all of you. Thank you for being here. I'm Jon, I'm one of the pastors here. Whoa. Whoa, just got super excited for a second there. So thanks for being here and thanks for watching. Open your Bibles or your device to John chapter 10. John chapter 10. If you are old school and have one of the Bibles in your laps that we give away, and that's on... John 10 is on page 993. 993. I bring you greetings from New York City and the people of Providence Baptist Church in Manhattan. I preached there last Sunday because we're helping them as they transition pastors and we just love that church. Many of our pastors have been there and preached at that church many times over the years and we've done that because New York City needs a powerful light for truth and grace. And so we love that church. They love you, they prayed for you, they're so grateful for you. Just wanted to let you know that.

Now, if you're able, let's stand for the reading of God's word. John chapter 10, drop down to verse 9. John 10:9. What I'm going to read here are the words of the one true and living God. "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." Hear the word of the Lord. You may be seated, and as you are, let's pray together.

Father, I'm reminded often of Jesus' words that apart from you, we can do nothing. It is important to embrace that truth. It is important to proclaim that truth, if not in our souls, through our lips, that we need you for everything. I need you. I need you now to preach your truth through me. We all need you. We need you to work in our hearts and our souls to understand the truth and receive the truth and live our lives for the truth. While I want that for us, I want that for Christians across our valley and so I lift up Compassion Church to you. Their services are finished now, I'm sure. Father, I pray that your truth would ring out strong and mightily through that church, that you would bless them in their ministries and that you would use them in our community to make much of Christ. Please do that now with us here I pray as well for the glory of your name. Amen.

Have you ever done an escape room? Do you know what that is? An escape room? Escape rooms, it's an immersive puzzle where players are locked in a room full of clues with the goal of figuring out how to escape the room in an hour or so. I've never done one before because I think I'd be horrible at it. I mean, I just would much rather have somebody who already knows the secrets to just come in and tell me and so we can get out in two seconds and I don't look like an idiot. That's what I'm most afraid of. Now, in many ways, an escape room is a metaphor for religious and spiritual life. Life is the most immersive of escape rooms. It's filled with clues

about God, clues that point to a truth that allows people to escape this life before they die. You see, inside the room is death, but outside the room is life and hope and peace.

Much of life's clues are hard to understand. They're confusing and even contradictory. If we could just have a cheat code, if we could only have someone who escaped the room come in and tell us what the truth is so that we could escape too. You see, believe it or not, that's what we have with Jesus. He is the cheat code in the escape room of life. He knows which clues are true and which ones are there to deceive us. He cuts through the confusion. He exposes the deception. He has escaped the room and he tells us the truth so we can escape it too and in escaping, we access eternal life. Accessing eternal life is the main idea behind Jesus. Twice repeated proclamation in our text today, I am the door. Now, before we jump into the text, let's remember where we've been so far in the book of John, at least in John chapter 10. When Jesus begins to speak again in verse seven, he's still speaking to the Pharisees who asked him if they're blind.

They asked him that all the way in chapter 9, verse 41, and the answer is yes, they are blind. Now he gives them an illustration of this. Starting in chapter one, verse 10, he tells a story, but it's really an illustration. It has symbolic meaning to it. So you see, all day long, sheep graze around the countryside with a shepherd who leads them. At night, what would happen in those days is that multiple flocks would go rest in a single sheepfold. The sheepfold in the illustration is Israel and the people are individual Jewish people. In the story, there are bad guys, thieves and robbers who are the Jewish religious leaders, the Sadducees, the Pharisees, the scribes, the religious sects of that day. On the outside, these leaders, they look like fine, upstanding teachers and leaders, but the truth is, they are wolves and shepherds clothing. That's seen in how they abused the people, especially like we saw in chapter nine, how they abused the man born blind.

To the mass Jewish people, Jesus, the shepherd, in verse three, He leads His own people out of Israel, calling each one personally by name and not missing a single one. All of his sheep come to Him because they know His voice. That's the story. But verse six says, the religious leaders, they don't get it. So starting in verse 7, Jesus explains and even expands on the illustration that he just told. So with that in place, look at verse 7. So Jesus again said to them, these Pharisees, who asked Him, "Are we blind?", He said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep." Those opening six words, "Truly, truly I say to you," that's Jesus' way of saying, "You better listen up to what I'm about to say and you better take it seriously." Now, that He has their attention, He drops a truth bomb in their collective heads.

"I am the door. I'm the door of the sheep." Interesting, if you think about it, He changes the metaphor a bit, doesn't He? You see, in the previous story, there was a gatekeeper who what? Who opened the door so that he, the shepherd, could go in and get his sheep out. Now he's the door. What happened? Well, the story has progressed from Jesus getting His sheep out of a pen that housed multiple flocks to a new fold, a new sheepfold that is only populated by His people. Here, what He's going to do is He's going to describe what it's like for Him to be your shepherd versus having people like the religious leaders be your shepherd. Like shepherds would do in

those days, after getting the sheep into a pen for the night, the shepherd would lay down and sleep across the front of the entrance.

So he would be a gate, a door. Nothing could go in; nothing could come out without crossing over his body. He was a door into the sheepfold, a sheepfold where verse nine tells us people are saved where they go in and out and find pasture and who not only have life but have abundant life. The idea then is that Jesus' followers are a new people. They're new people who enjoy God's blessings even though they are separate from Judaism and separate from these wicked religious leaders who then come back into the story in verse eight. "All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them." Now, the word all makes this sound like Jesus is even calling faithful men, like Moses and David, calling them thieves and robbers. But that's not what Jesus is saying, and you can tell by that little, tiny word in verse 8, "are." That word is in the present tense, means He's specifically talking about the corrupt religious establishment of His day who misled and mistreated the people.

In Mark 12:40, Jesus said that they devour widows' houses. The most vulnerable among them, they steal their property and their livelihood. Luke 16:14, He calls them lovers of money. In Luke 11:39, He calls them full of greed. So calling them thieves means He's calling them out for stealing from the people. He calls them robbers, meaning He's calling them out for doing so sometimes, at least with harshness. Again, a harshness that we saw in how they treated the man born blind in chapter 9. Now, in addition to these religious leaders, thieves and robbers, I think also includes many of the false messiahs that were running around saying, "I'm the fulfillment of a prophecy. I am the king, the long-awaited Messiah." They had a bunch of those running around in these days. Jesus, I think, lumps them all together with that phrase, thieves and robbers.

Why? Because they cared only for themselves and not for the people. You see, in spite of all of their power, all of their influence, verse eight, the sheep did not listen to them. That is sheep like the man born blind who got a clear picture of these leaders and rejected them. Sheep like Jesus' disciples who rejected them to follow Jesus. Many, many more throughout the book of John, like chapter 4:39 or 7:31 or 10:42. These many who are not His disciples, but who, it says, believed in Him. They all chose Jesus over the religious leaders and their abusive apostate religion. All of these people were part of this growing group who left Judaism and these religious thieves and robbers to follow Jesus, their promised Messiah. Well, that's great. So what does that have to do with us?

Well, like them, ***point #1) We Need To Understand Only Jesus Accesses Salvation.*** If you're taking notes, point #1, ***Understand Only Jesus Accesses Salvation.*** Let's think back to the illustration of a door. It's very simple. Sheep pens did not have multiple doors for shepherd and sheep to go in and come out of. No, there was just one door. In the same way, the idea is Jesus is the only access there is to eternal life. He and He alone is the only doorway into salvation. He must be entered through or there is no salvation, period. Jesus actually makes this clear in verse 9 with two little words in verse 9, the words "by me." Those two words, "by me," are emphasized

in the text so that they mean "by me and me only. By me and nobody else." Jesus put it this way, John 14:6. "No one comes to the Father except," there's one exception, "except through me."

No one comes to God apart from Jesus, not even one person, not even one. Acts 4:12 puts it this way. There is salvation in no one else. There's no one else and then in case we... We're like, "Well, that's just a general statement, but you know, there might be a little more." No. "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven." Under all of heaven, surrounding the entire planet, "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved," except for the name of Jesus. There are, what, 9,000,000,000 people right now on the planet? Eight, nine, something like that? That's eight or 9,000,000,000 names. Add to that, all of the many billions of people that have already lived and died on this planet. We're talking, what, 100,000,000,000, let's just say? Out of 100,000,000,000 names, there is only one that saves: Jesus.

That's because 1 Timothy 2:5, "There is one God and there is one mediator between God and man." There is one go between. God over here, us over here, there is only one mediator, the man Christ Jesus. There are not many paths to God. There are not many ways to God. There is only one. One more verse, verse John 5:11. "God gave us eternal life and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." It's just that simple, just that clear. Notice how Jesus puts it in verse 9. Verse 9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." In the text, the words "I am" mean I and I alone. I and no other, only I am the door. So if anyone is going to be saved, if anyone is going to be saved, they must enter heaven.

They cannot enter heaven apart from Him. Now, these religious leaders understood what He was saying and the jury is still out at this point if they get it, but if they did, they would've been outraged. No one, no prophet, no king, nobody talks like this, that He alone is the only Savior, the only one who gives access to salvation for all of humanity? Well, what was outrageous back then is just as outrageous today, right? No one would have a problem if point number one simply read, "Understand Jesus' accesses salvation." If that's all it was, I mean, that'd be fine. You have your Jesus path and others have their own path to salvation. Great. Live and let live religiously. That little word "only" is the problem, right? He only. He and no other. He and He alone accesses salvation. Apart from Him, there is no salvation. Know that Jesus knew what He was doing. The words "I am" in verse 7, in verse 9, give us a clue as to why He can make such an outrageous claim that only He has access to salvation.

The "I am" in those verses take us to the Old Testament, many verses, one of them like Isaiah 43:11, where God is speaking and He says, "I, I am the Lord." So he emphasizes that, "I and I only am the Lord. Beside me, there is no Savior." So the Lord is the only Savior, but Jesus is the only Savior. Well, what does that mean? That means Jesus is the Lord. A truth that we've seen all throughout the book of John, which makes the phrase "I am the door" not just offensive but doubly offensive. Why? Not only is He claiming to be the only access to eternal life, but He's also claiming to be their God. These leaders knew everything he was saying here, and again, I

don't think they do, but if they did, they would've tried to kill Him here. Instead, they wait until verse 31. But just because something is offensive doesn't mean what? It doesn't mean it's false. In fact, many offensive ideas in our day are, in fact, true.

Like, there are only two genders, male and female. There aren't 75, there's just two. This is so obviously true that it has been unquestioned since the dawn of time, but we're worried to say it. You might even feel a little tension in the room right now after I said it. Why? It's so obviously true, but we live by lies in order to make people not mad at us. Now, a person may truly be confused about this idea, that there's only two genders, and for those who are, that's a real struggle that we should help people with. But struggling with a truth, being offended by a truth, it doesn't change reality. The reality is, there is only male and female, whether I want it that way, whether I prefer it that way, whether my culture agrees, whether my feelings and my heart agrees. It doesn't matter. 500 years from now, when archeologists find bodies from this time in history, there will only be male bodies and female bodies, and that will be it, regardless because it's the truth. That's the same thing for Jesus.

Aligning ourselves with reality means understanding, realizing, and even bracing the truth that only Jesus can access salvation for anybody. Ephesians 2:18 puts it this way. "Through Jesus, we have access to the Father." He gives us access because He is the door. He is the only way, the only way to live after you die. We will all exist after we die, but the only way to live after you die is to come to Jesus. That's it. Do you understand this? Do you embrace this? The religious leaders listening to Jesus that day did not understand or embrace this, and there is nothing in the text ever that screams, "Be like them." The text is screaming, "Do not be like them." Whatever religious ideas you came in here with today, make sure you leave understanding and embracing that Jesus is the only way you or anyone else will ever be saved.

This is not my teaching. This is His teaching, and that's... either He's right or He's wrong. "He alone is the door that opens into eternal life," which is actually where Jesus goes next in chapter 10. Look at verse 9. "Eternal life is the subject. I am the door. If anyone enters by me," no one else, "by me only, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Jesus repeats here that He's the door. He's emphasizing this idea, but instead of contrasting Himself with the religious leaders like He did in verse 8, He explains what the metaphor means. It means, as we've been seeing, that He is the only access to salvation saying, "If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." But then He adds to that, notice, "and will go in and out and find pasture." I'm waiting for my son to say to me later, "Did the Bible just say that we need to go to In-N-Out?"

He totally will. You're like, "Ah..." No, that will happen today, guaranteed. So His people are not only saved from the tyranny of these wicked leaders, but verse 10, they are saved in the sense that they have life. That is, they have eternal life. In addition to that, notice they go in and out and find pasture. Now, this does not mean go in and out of salvation or in and out of the universal church or in and out of Christ. Now, this is a Hebrew idiom that refers to all the things that we do every day, all of our comings out, all of our goings out, all of our comings in. That phrase is an idea for just all of life. So sheep can do that. They can go into the sheepfold, they

can go out of the sheepfold, they can find pasture, but the only reason they could do that is because they're free.

They're safe, secure, and protected. They're safe from predators. They're safe from religious thieves and robbers so they can move about freely and confidently. They can move about securely without worry, without fear because their shepherd is protecting them. Now, all of this in context is spiritual. These are the blessings and benefits of salvation that Jesus gives to His sheep. His people, those who left unbiblical Judaism to pledge their allegiance to Him. So once a person enjoys access to eternal life only in Jesus, we must *point #2), Know Salvation Includes Safety and Security. Know Salvation Includes Safety And Security.* The follower of Jesus, the one who has eternal life is also, in addition to that, safe and secure. This is spiritual, so safe spiritually, secure spiritually, protected spiritually. Spiritually, they will not suffer harm. Spiritually, they are kept safe.

Jesus has talked about this in the book of John already in chapter 5:24. He says about those who believe in Him, they will not come into judgment, but His path from death to life. So they are protected from God's judgment. John 6:39, Jesus says He will lose no one but raise all of them up on the last day. The protected. Protected from ever missing out on being resurrected and living forever. Romans 8:39 puts it this way. "Nothing in creation is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Christians are sealed, meaning we're owned, we're protected, guaranteeing our salvation according to Ephesians 4:30. There's a promise in 2 Timothy 4:18 that promise that Paul holds onto that is true for all of us, "that the Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and He will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom." Why? Because one John 5:18 says, "Jesus protects His people and the evil one does not touch us." Doesn't touch us.

Now, all of this does not mean that we will not suffer in this life. It doesn't mean we won't experience loss and trials and pain and agony and hardship and violence and doubt. Christians will go through trials, even though we are safe and secure. We will experience pain, even gut-wrenching pain at times, even hardship and violence and maybe even martyrdom. But that doesn't at the same time mean that we are not safe and secure. We are. This, again, is spiritual safety, not physical. So 10 of the apostles were martyred. Jesus himself, even Peter, they were both crucified. Christians down through the ages have been and continue to this day to be persecuted even more, like the 70 people that were... Christians that were murdered by Muslim terrorists just last week.

All of that happens, even though it is true that we are eternally protected, spiritually safe, secure now and forever. Not one thing, not one person can snatch us out of salvation, even if we're surrounded on every side by trials and distress and harassment and famine and danger and swords and guns and death and slaughter. If all of that is surrounding us, we are, in the words of Romans 8:37, more than conquerors. More than conquerors through Him who loved us. We conquer them all, not because we're so great and so powerful, not at all, but because nothing can ever take us away from Christ. Nothing can ever separate us from our good shepherd and the

spiritual security that is found in Him. So do you know the spiritual safety? Do you know the spiritual security? I know many of us come from many different theological backgrounds.

I never assume that we're all on the same page because we aren't all on the same page, theologically, and that's okay. We're all here to learn and grow as our minds and our souls are transformed each weekend by God's word. I get all that. But if you've come from a background that says you are not permanently safe and secure in Jesus, that there is one who can snatch you out of the Father's hand and that one is you. That you can lose your salvation, that you can be born again and then unborn, and then born again, and then born again and again and again and again spiritually. If that's you, I want you to listen to Jesus in the same chapter, chapter 10, further explaining this idea.

Drop down to verse 28. John 10:28, talking about those who believe in Him, He says this. "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." Just in case that wasn't enough, He says this. "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

So think about it. Go back to the beginning of verse 28. The life that you have if you are a Christian is eternal, meaning it never ends. Jesus said, "You will never perish." It's not possible. He said no one will snatch you out of His hands. Then again, just in case that wasn't enough for somebody, he adds to that, "No one is able." No one has the ability, no one has the power to snatch them out of His Father's hands. Do you remember what He said right before He said that part? I said it just now. Do you remember? He said His Father, who is what? What does it say? Greater than all. Now, listen, I know we're not a bunch of doctrines in theology here, but let me just ask you, are you greater than God? Are you more powerful than God?

When Jesus said the Father is greater than all, does that all include you and your will? Sure does. Sure does. It is impossible for you to perish. His safety and security is not temporary. It is permanent. You're like, "Why did you make that point so forceful just now?" Because after the last service, a man walked up to me, shook my hand and said, "I walked in here believing I could lose my salvation and I don't anymore. Thank you." So like him, do you know this? Do you trust this more than your fear of losing your salvation? More than your doubts that maybe someday you'll fall away? If you are saved, you are eternally saved, safe and secure, sheltered in God's omnipotent hands. Now, it's the idea behind the word "pasture" at the end of verse 9 that Jesus expands on in verse 10.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and habit abundantly." So the first part of verse 10 is a general statement. It is not a reference to the devil, though he does steal, kill, and destroy. Why? Because this is talking, again, about the religious leaders of Israel and how they treat the people. They're the opposite of verse 9. They only harmed the sheep. They never protected them at all. They're pictured as sheep stealers who only interacted with the sheep for their own selfish benefit. What would happen is the sheep stealers would climb over the walls. They would find a sheep; they would kill it on the inside and then

throw it over. So they'd steal them, kill them, and then dismantle them and destroy them. That's what these words mean. They steal them, slaughter them, and destroy them.

What is that pointing to? It's the idea that they profit off the people and then when they're no longer of use to these leaders, they discard the people like trash because the people mean nothing to these leaders. They could be violent, take advantage of God's precious people. They're merciless and abusive and harsh, as we saw again, as the man who was born blind was treated in chapter 9. The effect of Israel's leaders was devastating on the people that God charged them to care for and to love them. They offered nothing of the safety and security we saw in verse 9. Now, finding pasture in verse 9 moves beyond safety and security to the idea of being cared for and provided for, nourished, all needs met, satisfied, refreshed, healthy, happy. That's the idea of finding pasture. If you're a sheep, you can't ask for anything more than that.

The idea is all of that is true for Jesus' people as a result of the safety that the good shepherd provides for his sheep. Life, again, in verse 10 is eternal life. It's the same as being saved in verse 9, but then to eternal life, notice the end of the verse, Jesus adds having eternal life abundantly. That word means to the full, overflowing, to the max, more than enough, plenty, profuse, plentiful, well-cared for. This is a life, as one author put it, beyond our wildest dreams. A life of contentment, a life that exceeds expectation, a life that is fully satisfied.

So having access to eternal life, point number one, and being permanently safe spiritually, point number two, with that in place, **point #3), *Experience Salvation's Satisfied Life. Experience Salvation's Satisfied Life.*** The salvation Jesus gives his people is not a miserly, stingy, barely enough, always leaving you with a quest for more kind of life. Now, in Jesus, His people are satisfied. Satisfied. They're not chasing every wind of teaching. They're not adopting every spiritual fad. They're not wandering around in this life looking for more because they don't need anymore. They have everything in Christ.

This is the picture in Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not..." What? "I shall not want," which means because He's my shepherd, I lack nothing. I have all that I need. I am completely taken care of. He makes me lie down in green pastures, not dried up, dirty brown ones. He leads me beside still waters because that's the only kind of water a sheep will drink. Not rushing water, just still. In all of that, He restores my soul. This is what He does for His people spiritually. Think about it. Do we need acceptance with God? If so, He will justify us. Do we need love? Do we need a family? He will adopt us.

Do we need freedom from a sin, from sin that is destroying our lives? He will redeem us. Do we need a new life? He will regenerate us. Do we need to change? He will convert us. Do we need peace? He will reconcile us. Do we need more change? He will give us His spirit and cause us over time to live in ways that please Him. Do we need more devotion to the Lord? He will make us holy and then make us holier throughout our lives. Do we feel dirty? He will forgive and He will cleanse. Are we afraid of His justice? He will give mercy. Do we need hope? He will perfect us. On and on and on. Every single spiritual need His people have; He meets. Now, I know many

of you have heard this text preached like Jesus is talking about a life of abundant health, wealth, and prosperity, but that is completely out of context.

All of John 10 is spiritual. It is not physical, and it is certainly not financial. So spiritually speaking, Jesus hasn't held anything back from His people except making us little gods. Other than that, which is ridiculous that people even teach that, other than that, we have an abundance, a spiritual storehouse of infinite treasures kept for us in heaven. In this life, we get tastes of that satisfaction as He reveals more and more truth to us. The Christian life is not a deprived existence. It is a generous abundance. So when the truth about salvation, when that truth dominates our minds, our hearts, and our souls, the result is the abundant life. Our lives are changed and being changed for the better. There's a sense that God is pleased with me, not because I'm so great, but because I'm in Christ and I'm seeking to follow Him.

So there is a meaning and a purpose that is infused into our lives. We're set free from fear, sin, death, and hell. The things that people run away from in fear, we're able to stand confidently in front of and say, "My hope is in Christ." We have strength to honor the Lord even when it's hard to do. So we have joy and peace in our trials, on and on and on. We experience that abundance. If we're not experiencing that, if we're not experiencing salvation satisfaction, it may be because we just don't know what the Bible says is ours in Christ. It may be because we're trying to find satisfaction in sin and the things of this world. It may be because we're acting on lies, like, "Jesus is great. He's fine, but there there's more out there." No, there's nothing better. There's nothing greater. There's nothing more satisfying than Jesus, nothing.

All the blessing, all the abundance of life here and in the future, all the overflowing satisfaction that will not stop crashing on our souls like waves at the seashore, all of that is found only in Him. We can experience that abundance now, but what we experience now pales in comparison to the enjoyment and the satisfaction when the words of Psalm 16:11, "We are in God's presence where there is fullness of joy." We experience joy now, but not the fullness of joy. That's there. Pleasures forevermore. Heaven full of pleasures that never end. I don't even know what that means, but I actually don't think I'm supposed to. All I'm supposed to know about all of that is 1 Corinthians 2:0, what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, that's what God has prepared for those who love Him.

So any abundant spiritual life that we have here in this life is great, but the truth is, the very best satisfaction here will be unimaginably small compared to the joy that Jesus' people will have when we see Him face to face. You see, in the end what Jesus says about Himself as the door of salvation is truly amazing. What kind of door is He? Well, our text has been crystal clear. First, He is a serious door. What I mean by that is what He says about being the door is truly true. It's not frivolous or pointless. It's not something we should be indifferent about, like an open door that people run into in a storm. What Jesus says here is true and necessary, and we ignore it to our own peril. Second, He is a solitary door. That is, He is the only entrance there is, was, or ever will be to eternal life.

There is salvation and no one and nothing else but Him. Third, He is a sacred door. That is, He is the great "I am," God who became a man to save men and women, boys and girls from their sin when they give their lives to Him. Fourth, He is a seeing door, and what I mean by that is like a hole that lets you see what's outside. What Jesus does is He gives His people discernment so that in the words at the end of verse 8, His people do not listen to false teachers or false teaching.

Fifth, is a saving door, that's what we've been talking about. He rescues his people from every spiritual danger, including the ultimate spiritual danger is the danger we're in if we stand before God in our sin, instead of standing before Him in Christ. Sixth, He is a secure door. He protects his people spiritually. He keeps them permanently secure, safe on the inside from every spiritual danger. He will bring every last one of His people safely home to heaven when it is their time to enter. Seven, He is a satisfying door. That is, He gives his people everything they need and a whole lot more to be saved and to be satisfied, taking care of us perfectly now and forever.

However, number eight, He is a separating door. That is, like any door, there's an inside and there's an outside. People are separated between those who come in. That is, those who believe in Him, those who give their lives to Him, and those who refuse and stay on the outside. With that in mind, number nine, Jesus is a standing door. That is, He stands ready to be opened. The door is not locked. The door is not hidden. There is not a secret password that you must say in order to get in. Jesus is accessible and He is available to all. Again, look at verse 9, "If anyone. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." That word "anyone" is a technical Greek word that means anyone. Anyone, everyone.

It means it doesn't matter who you are today. It doesn't matter what you've done. Doesn't matter what's been done to you. Doesn't matter if you are a law-abiding citizen or if you are an idolater, a false teacher, the worst criminal that there ever was. Jesus said "anyone." Like the door to the ark, it is open now, ready to save any who will enter before it is shut forever at death. "If anyone believes in me, if anyone gives his life to me," verse 9, "he will be saved, rescued from sin, rescued from death, rescued from hell, saved from God's punishment for your sin." Yes, that's what we saw, but also safe, secure, satisfied, now and forever. The door stands ready for anybody to be open. He is the clue that unlocks the escape room of life. He accesses eternal life to all who believe in Him. So if you have not done so already, come to Him today and be saved. We're going to take communion now, but before we do, let's pray.

Jesus, the truths inside of your word about you are the most powerful truths in all the world. You said in chapter 3 that if we lift you up, you will draw all people to yourself. So I pray that that's what you would do now. As we have just about you, we've heard about the truth about you, what you do for your people as the good shepherd. I pray that for those who are on the inside, that we will marvel, we will stand amazed. We will worship you for all that you have done for us. I pray for those who are on the outside that seeing how wonderful you are, they will run to you. Open the door of eternal life and come in. Please do this work in each of our souls as a result of our time here today. Amen.