

## JOHN 10:7 Snow Day Devotional<sup>1</sup>

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### Scripture Reading: John 10:7-10

[7] So Jesus again said to them, “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 listen to them. [9] I am the door. If anyone enters by 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.

### INTRODUCTION

- We’re in a series looking at the I AM sayings of Jesus.
- Something very normal about the pictures Jesus has used so far:
  - I am the **bread** of life; I am the **light** of the world; and now, I am the **door** of the sheep.
  - Bread, light, doors – we’re very familiar with all these things.
    - In fact, depending on where you’re sitting at home right now, you might be able to see all three!
    - They’re certainly all things we interact with every day.
- But, at the same time, there’s also something curious, something enigmatic about the pictures Jesus uses – in that, it’s not immediately clear what he means – or what he wants to teach us – when he uses these descriptions.
  - If that could be said of first two pictures, how much more so of this third.
  - I am the door? What does that mean???

**Transition:** Let’s answer that question by seeing 2 blessings we can enjoy bc Jesus is the door...

### First, bc Jesus is the door, we have ACCESS.

**Illustrate:** This is the church I grew up in. [Show picture.]

- Check out the Scottish name, it’s spelled B.U.C.C.L.E.U.C.H.
  - Any guesses on how you say that???
  - Looks like some sort of OT battle site.
- It’s pronounced “Bu-Clue,” but the thing I want to draw your attention to is the door.
  - See that it’s painted red?
  - This is a tradition that dates back centuries, and you’ll find many churches – not just in Scotland but here in America – that do the same.
- Why? Bc it symbolizes the blood of Jesus.
  - We enter the church the same way we enter heaven...
  - Through the blood of Jesus.

### State:

- That’s why Jesus calls himself the door: **V9a: If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...**
- We have **access** – not bc we deserve it, not bc we have earned it, but bc by his blood he invites us to come in.

### Apply:

- There's an **urgency** to this – bc there is no other entrance to heaven.
  - Can't get in through being a good person or living a moral life...
  - Can't get in through "Christian things" like reading your Bible or giving to the poor.
  - There are no side doors and there is no back door into heaven.
- But there is a front door – Jesus himself – and *anyone* can enter through him.
  - There is no dress code → There is no credential → There is no secret handshake.
  - You come as you are to the door of heaven.
    - And then – like a shepherd who's overjoyed to find his lost sheep OR a father who's overjoyed to find his lost son – Jesus welcomes you in.
    - He has "opened the life gate that we may go in."<sup>2</sup>
- The doors of our church are closed today, but Jesus is always open.
  - Don't stand outside in the cold, come into the warmth of his love.
  - Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved (**Act 16:31**).
  - If anyone enters by me, he will be saved (**V9a**).

**Transition:** Bc Jesus is the door, we have ACCESS to heaven.

### Second, bc Jesus is the door, we have ASSURANCE.

#### State:

- Assurance – that steady confidence that you are saved and that you will make it to the end.
- This is what Jesus gives us in **V9a: If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...**

**Illustrate:** A little bit of historical context helps us here.<sup>3</sup>

- In Jesus's day, sheep would often be kept in a pen that consisted of a circular wall with a small gap in it.
  - Strictly speaking there wasn't a door or a gate.
  - Instead, the shepherd would stand in the gap.
- The shepherd WAS the door: Once he had given the sheep access to the fold, his very presence kept them in it.
- In the same way, Jesus IS the door to heaven.
  - He stands in the gap.
  - Having given us access to heaven, "*Jesus is the one who guards and protects his sheep.*"<sup>4</sup>

**Apply:** And with that comes assurance: **V9a: If anyone enters by me, he will be saved...**

- Is there a gap in your spiritual life?
  - Maybe there's a gap between your faith and your doubts...
  - Maybe there's a gap between your faith and your fears...
  - Maybe there's a gap between your faith and your strength...
  - Maybe there's a gap between your faith and your obedience...
- You won't fall through the cracks – bc Jesus stands in the gap.
  - Your assurance – your confidence that you will be saved – does not depend on your strength, your faithfulness, your obedience, but on his.

- Jesus says – **V9a: If anyone enters by me, he will be saved** – not bc he thinks we have what it takes to be faithful to the end but bc he knows he has what it takes to hold us fast to the end.
- Lots of Xns stumble on this teaching: Live with a sense of fear that they can somehow lose their salvation.
  - But the gospel says:
    - You didn't do anything to earn salvation...
    - In the same way, you can't do anything to lose it.
  - From beginning to end, it's grace: his gift delivered by his strength.

**Transition:** Bc Jesus is the door, we have ACCESS to heaven, and we have ASSURANCE that he will never let us go.

### THE CLOSE

- Here's a suggestion for you to do at home today...
- Pick something red – ribbon, sticky note, piece of paper, or kids, maybe you could draw a picture – and attach it to a door in your house.
- Kids, maybe you could do that with your parents this afternoon.
- Then whenever you see it remember: Jesus is the door.
  - You **access** to heaven.
  - And the **assurance** that he will never let you go.

## RESOURCES AND ENDNOTES

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### Resources

This list contains some of the resources that were used to prepare this sermon series. Check them out if you want to dig a little deeper.

- James Montgomery Boice, *The Gospel of John, Volumes 2 and 3*.
- John Calvin, *Commentary on the Gospel According to John*.
- Iain D. Campbell, *I AM... Exploring the 'I am' sayings of John's Gospel*.
- D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*.
- Matt Chandler, *I AM*.
- Ray Cortese, *To Believe*.
- Paul Jeon, *Life Eternal: The Gospel of John*.
- Timothy Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*.
- Andreas Köstenberger, *John*.
- Logos Bible Software.
- Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*.
- Tim Mackie, *Read Scripture: Illustrated Summaries of Biblical Books*.
- R. C. Sproul, *Knowing Christ: The I AM Sayings of Jesus*.
- Christian Wiman, *Zero at the Bone: Fifty Entries Against Despair*.

### Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> I preached this on video after we had to cancel in person services because of snow. The original version added a third point: abundance. Verse 10 makes this point clearly, and it would be good to add it back in if I preach on this text again.

<sup>2</sup> Trinity Hymnal #667, *To God Be the Glory – Praise the Lord*.

<sup>3</sup> I owe this section to Iain D. Campbell, *I AM... Exploring the 'I am' sayings of John's Gospel*, 48.

<sup>4</sup> Campbell, 48.