

The Door - Sunday 6th September, 2015

“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. John 10:9-10

Beloved in The Lord,

The majority of people in the world hope that something good awaits them after this life. So often I hear people say at funerals: *“You are now with your loved ones”* or *“we will meet again at such and such an event in heaven”*. This is all nice sentiment, but the truth of the matter is that only those who have gone through the right door will meet again in the next life. Those who have not gone through the right door will find themselves in utter darkness, in solitary confinement forever.

The Bible teaches us that there are only two options after this life – a bright eternity with Jesus in His Father’s House, together with all the redeemed, or a dark eternal hell. Where we will end up depends upon the door we go through.

Many people believe that it doesn’t matter. They believe that all doors lead to Heaven, but they don’t. If you go to the airport and you are booked on a flight to San Francisco, then when you have cleared customs and immigration, you must go to the correct gate in order to catch your flight. If your boarding pass tells you that the flight leaves from gate 40, but you decide that you want to leave from gate 35, then you will not reach your destination. That is only logical. It is the same with Heaven. There is one gate, one door that leads to Heaven and that is The Lord Jesus Christ. If you think to yourself that you don’t need Jesus, and that you can get to Heaven via a different route, then you will be in for a horrible surprise.

Jesus clearly taught:

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

Jesus is the door and He is the only door to Heaven. John records for us Jesus Words:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6)

I cannot over emphasise the importance of this truth. Jesus is the only way to the Father, and no-one can get to the Father apart from Him.

We live in an age when Satan has deceived the leaders of the Church on a grand scale. This truth is watered down and not taught in many Churches anymore, because people don’t like the narrow way. People want to hear that it doesn’t really matter, because God is love and in the end all will be well. Such teaching is blasphemy and offensive to Almighty God. It is offensive to Christ the Lord.

If there are other ways to God, then Jesus suffered and died in vain. His precious blood was shed for nothing. There is absolutely nothing more precious in all creation than the Blood of Jesus. There is nothing more powerful than the Blood of Jesus.

Precisely because God is love, Jesus shed His own precious Blood, to redeem us, because there was and is no other way for us to be saved.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

Because He loved us so much, God provided a way for us to be able to come to Him. God has provided a Door, and that Door is Jesus. When we believe on Him, then we are saved. If we don't believe on Him, then we are lost. It is that simple. So what does it mean to believe on Jesus?

It means that you understand that you have no other hope. You have nothing to present to God as redemption for your sin. You do not rely on your so called good works, or good life. You rely and trust only upon the Blood of Jesus as full payment of your sin debt to God. You trust and believe that He paid the price and by His blood you are redeemed.

When you trust in Jesus for your salvation then you have gone through the right door. You are headed for Heaven.

Listen again to our text:

“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. John 10:9-10

So we see that when we enter through the door we find good pasture. You see believing on Jesus is not only an issue of salvation, but also relates to this life.

Before we place our trust in Jesus, we are slaves to Satan. Jesus called him a thief and a liar. He steals life. A person who is not trusting in Jesus, is a slave to Satan and all his ways. Jesus said that he steals and kills and destroys. Isn't that the truth?

How many lives are destroyed by addictions to alcohol, drugs, fame, sex, work, money etc.? People are chasing after something, but they don't really know what it is. They build their houses on sand. While things are ok, they say I have no need of God. Ah, but when the storms hit, what then? Everything around them collapses. What then? Nothing.

Solomon was the wisest, richest, most powerful King that ever lived. He allowed himself whatever he desired and made a point of trying everything imaginable. He came to the conclusion:

***“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher,
“Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” (Ecc.1:2)***

He wrote 12 chapters of the Bible dedicated to this topic and came to the conclusion that without God all is vanity. He was absolutely correct. Where God is not in the center of a person's life – all is in vain. Solomon closed his book by concluding:

“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.” (Ecc.12:13)

Fear God and keep His commandments. If we do, then we are in a good place. We are in green pastures.

It is interesting, that people refuse to believe in God, to trust in Jesus, do not go through the door, because they think that they will lose their freedom. They think that the Christian life is restrictive.

What they do not realize is that the opposite is true. When you go through the Door, all your chains fall off and you are free. You lose the weight of sin. You lose your fear. You lose your despair, your worries and doubts dissipate.

Jesus said:

“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36).

When we are in Jesus, then we are truly free. We are free to live and free to die. He sets us free and He fills us with His Holy Spirit, with His love, with His joy, with His peace, with His presence. In Him we have everything we need and so much more.

David put it this way:

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1)

When The Lord is your Shepherd you have want of nothing. God fulfills all of your needs and gives you so much more.

He loves you. He is your Father. He is a good God. He is The Good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Door. A Door not only gives entrance, but it provides protection. In Jesus time, a Shepherd would lie across the opening to the enclosure where the sheep were at night, so that they could not escape and also so that the wolves could not get in.

When Jesus is our Door, we are safe from the wolf – Satan. He cannot snatch us from the Father's hand, because Jesus our Shepherd and our Door is greater than him. He is our Shepherd and our defense.

In Him we have all. May we entrust our all to Him. To Him be all the glory. Amen

Pastor Colvin MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney.
All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.