

John 10

Intro: Psalm 23

- I. 10:1-10 I Am the Door
- II. 10:11-21 I Am the Good Shepherd
- III. 10:22-42 I Am the Son of God

I. 10:1-10 I Am the Door

- A. 10:3-5 More than one shepherd might keep his flock in the same sheepfold. When a shepherd wanted to lead them out, he would call and his own sheep would be the only ones to respond.
- B. 10:7,9 *I am the door of the sheep* Once the shepherd led the sheep out to graze on the hillsides, during the night sheep were confined in a simpler pen usually bordered by a stone wall or a hedge. There was only one way in or out. The shepherd would lay down and sleep in the opening. The sheep were protected from animals and robbers with the shepherd acting as the door.
- C. 10:10 Religion (as opposed to Christ) can steal kill and destroy people. See **Ezekiel 34:1-10** regarding Israel's evil shepherds.

II. 10:11-21 I Am the Good Shepherd

- A. 10:11 *Good Shepherd* This fulfills OT imagery – like Psalm 23 and the following:

Isaiah 40:11 (NKJV) He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- B. 10:12-13 *Hireling or hired man* The shepherd was usually the owner of the sheep or one of his sons. The hired worker is not the owner of the sheep. He wants his job to be both safe and profitable.

- i. Pastor = shepherd Most English translations only use the word “pastor” in one place. In that place it translates the Greek word for shepherd:

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV) ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

- ii. Consequently, ministry can be a place for a shepherd or a place for a hireling. Far too many pastors are actually hirelings. There is a profit motive behind all of their work.

C. 10:15 The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

1 John 3:16 (NKJV) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us...

D. 10:16 *not of this fold* In this context Jesus is probably talking about bringing Gentiles into God's flock. Within the church Jews and Gentiles are put on the same level.

E. 10:17-18 Two important statements:

- i. Jesus laid down His life of His own free will. Neither the Sanhedrin nor the Romans had the power to take His life. His death was an intentional sacrifice.
- ii. Jesus took up His life again by His own power! He freely submitted to death and conquered it in the process. He emerged from death alive!

F. 10:20 Christ's listeners understood Him well enough to know that only insanity could cause a man to talk like this. Those who try to honor Jesus as a "good man" or "great moral teacher" today are not taking Him seriously.

III. 10:22-42 I Am the Son of God

A. 10:22 Feast of Dedication = Hanukkah in late December (few month gap from v.22)

B. 10:23 *Solomon's Porch* This was a covered colonnade on the East side of the Temple. Winter is the rainy season in Jerusalem. People could gather here in all weather and stay dry.

C. 10:27 As Christ's sheep, we hear our Shepherd's voice and follow Him.

D. 10:28 Eternal life is a gift.

*Romans 6:23 (NKJV) For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

E. 10:28-30 Three important points:

- i. We are completely safe in Christ's hands.
- ii. We are completely safe in the Father's hands.
 - a) Anyone or anything trying to pull us out of the Father's hands is like a little child playing tug of war with its father – only in this case they are fighting against both God the Father and Jesus.
 - b) You cannot lose your salvation because you did something wrong. God isn't going to pull it away from you. In fact, He's on your side fighting against anyone who would try to pull you away from Him.

iii. Christ and the Father are One. Christ claims here to be God. His hearers understood Him well enough to respond by trying to stone Him.

a) The Trinity: This is not a simple doctrine, but this is one of the places the Bible teaches it.

- Jesus distinguished Himself from the Father and yet claimed unity and equality with the Father.
- Jesus and the Father are both equally God, but they are not one and the same Person.

Huston Smith notes, in *The World's Religions*, that only two people ever astounded their contemporaries so much that the question they evoked was not “*Who* is he?” but “*What* is he?” They were Jesus and Buddha. The answers these two gave were exactly opposite. Buddha said unequivocally that he was a mere man, not a god ... Jesus, on the other hand, claimed in many ways to be divine.

[Importantly, Jesus invited His death by His repeated, clear, shocking claims to be God. This was part of “laying down His life for us.”]

Jesus kept pointing people to himself, saying “Come unto me.” Buddha said, “Look not to me; look to my *dharma* (doctrine).” Buddha also said, “Be ye lamps unto yourselves.” Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad and other religious founders performed no miracles and did not rise from the dead. Jesus offered his many miracles and his resurrection as evidence for his divinity.

– Excerpted from *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*

F. 10:35 Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6. The word used there was used not only in reference to God or gods, but also used to refer to judges. See Exodus 22:8-9.

G. *and the Scripture cannot be broken* Jesus built His case upon the integrity and authority of the Scriptures as God's written revelation to us. You cannot empty the Bible of its power by claiming that it is wrong. What's more Jesus pointed to a relatively obscure passage to make His point. Every word of every verse is part of God's Word to us.

H. 10:36 Another claim to Deity. Jesus is the Son of God. A human son is every bit as human as his father. Jesus is just as much God as God the Father. As God's **only-begotten Son**, He is the only one who can claim the nature of Deity on the basis of His Sonship.

Final Blessing:

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV) ²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.