

Introduction: Looking for the right door

“Doors and doorways are places of transition. The doorway, gate, portal or entryway is often associated with entrance into areas of great spiritual significance.”<sup>1</sup>

As a metaphor when making decisions, ie. “Is the door open or closed?’ Sometimes we say we are looking for a ‘door of opportunity’ or for opportunity to ‘knock’ at our door.

### I. **What is behind the Door?**

- A. Male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him And “the Lord shut him in.” The Lord shuts the door.
- B. **An Escape for Lot and his family**, Gen. 19:10 God’s angels “reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door.” When does salvation come to Lot and his family? And while we were outside in the darkness He reached out to us and grabbed us and dragged us into safety and security (Jn. 6:44). That is by God’s initiative.
- C. **Mercy for God’s chosen** (Passover) In Exodus 12 they are commanded to put blood on the mantel and doorposts of their homes that the angel of death might pass by and not strike their firstborn. “None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.”
  1. **We learn that the color of God’s mercy is red.** It is by blood that freedom, pardon and forgiveness comes.
  2. **His mercy covers the Door and covers the Cross.** The blood of Christ, the door covers us with mercy.

### II. **Christ is the Door – John 10**

- A. **Beware the false shepherds and teachers:** The false shepherd tries to break in and is a thief and robber. He is a destroyer, a killer. He is a stranger to the sheep. Verse 1,8,10 refers to him as one whom the sheep will not listen to. He profits on the death of sheep. So there are false teachers and leaders. Jesus is addressing the pharisees mentioned in chapter 9, but the reference generally can be applied to all false teachers and leaders. **Jeremiah 23: 16-17**
- B. **The True Shepherd and Door**

Verses 2-4,9,10 The true shepherd of the sheep for whom the gatekeeper opens (sheep pen), the sheep hear and follow Him in and out for pasture. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. (Ps 23)

  1. **An open door at His resurrection** – In Matthew 27:59-60; 28:2-4 the resurrection is described as an earth shaking event with the stone removed from the entrance of the tomb (door opened) and that this was attested to by both angels and guards.
  2. **Both Peter and Paul have an opened door experience, a type of resurrection experienced described in Acts 12:12-14** Peter was imprisoned at time of Passover. Now he stands at the “door of the gateway” where the disciples are praying for him. In Acts 16:25-31 it is Paul and Silas in prison when “all the doors were opened.”

### III. **Christ, your Door -Application**

- A. **Door to eternal life –**
  1. **Eternal life is offered and we need to receive it while there is time.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, p. 215  
Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL 1998.

**Matthew 25:10** *“And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.”*

**2. Make certain that you have entered into eternal life**

**Luke 13:25** *“when once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’”*

**3. The Door of faith**

**Revelation 3:20** *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and commune with him, and he with me.**”*

**B. Door of opportunity for ministry**

**1. God opens a door for effective ministry**

**Revelation 3:8** *“I have set before you an open door”*

**1 Corinthians 16:9** *“a wide door for effective work has opened to me...”*

**Colossians 4:3** *“...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...”*

**2. Has the Lord opened a door for ministry to you? How do you know? When God opens a way for the people to cross the Jordan how did they know? It opens up when their feet touch the water, Joshua 3:15-17. This is walking in faith.**

**3. Don't miss the importance of the church, the body of Christ in knowing and obeying His calling. We have all received spiritual gifts if we have been born-again.**

1 Cor 12:1-11 He apportions as He wills

Romans 12:4-8 Given according to His grace

Ephesians 4:11-12 To equip the saints for ministry, to build up the body of Christ, to effect unity of the faith

1 Peter 4:8-11 Keep loving one another, that God by be glorified through Christ

**God's Word and prayer, Spiritual gifts inventory, Christian friends (be careful) , Needs with people and circumstances...do you see a possible door before you?**

“Take up your cross and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)?”

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19