



## **"CHRIST THE DOOR"**

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### **John 10:9-18**

"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. [10] "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly. [11] "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. [12] "He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. [13] "He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep. [14] "I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, [15] even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. [16] "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. [17] "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. [18] "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." (NASB)

**THE CROSS:** Large Wooden Cross (built of four pieces of wood)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Other people have pretended to be our heroes, but when it comes down to giving up their lives to save us, they run the other way. Jesus Christ cares about us SO MUCH that He was willing even to die.

Vs. 11 Jesus said, "*I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*" It was not just a quick and painless death, NO... Christ died a cruel death, nailed to a wooden cross, like this one. Vs. 10 Jesus said, "I came that they (that's us) might have LIFE, and might have it abundantly." He gave up His life that we could have life. He died on a cross like this, so we could live... forever!!!

**Ask:** Why did Christ need to die for us to have life???

We are born into sin. We are sinners by birth and by action. Every single one of us has done wrong things. (slowly) We've lied, cheated, or stole. Or maybe you didn't steal, but perhaps you've coveted (To covet is to want something somebody else has for yourself.) For some, the sin they've committed is adultery. Maybe not for you, but have you lusted???

### **Matthew 5:28**

*Jesus said, "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (NIV)*

Even if we look at someone else and think, "Wow, she's hot." Or "He's so fine." It's like we already did the act in our hearts. We are sinners. Every single one of us has messed up. That's why we need the cross of Christ.

Our sin earned a death sentence for us... and somebody had to pay the debt. You see, Jesus lived perfectly. He wasn't born into sin, NO, He was born of the Spirit of God. He was the only person ever to be born of a virgin. Jesus was the only one who could be our GOOD Shepherd, the only one who could lay down His life for us. (pause) Even if another person would be nice enough to die for you... he or she could never pay for your sin, because they are a sinner just like you and me. This is why we need the cross of Jesus Christ. This is why He had to die.

**THE DOOR:** Disassemble the cross and build a door.

Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved."

He is the ONLY door, the ONLY way we can get to God the Father. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life. NO one comes to the father, except through me." John 14:6

It is through Jesus Christ alone we can enter into life. And the life He brings is forever. Even when this body dies... my spirit will live on forever with HIM!!!

**Altar Call:** I challenge you right now... If you have never entered into Christ, then let today be your day. If you have never received Christ as your personal savior, or if you are not sure you are on your way to heaven, than walk through this DOOR and come to the front. Now is the time for you to make a choice to follow Jesus Christ. He paid the price... now take the gift.

I also want to challenge you who may have accepted Christ before, but you've let your walk slip. You don't always do what you know is right, but instead you give in and let sin rule you. How many sins do you think you have to commit to be a sinner??? I want to ask you a simple question... Who nailed Jesus to the cross??? Was it the roman soldiers... or maybe the Jewish leaders??? No... it was me and you... our SIN nailed Him there, and His love kept Him there. If you are living in continued sin, even if you've received Christ before, now is the time to make things right.

### **1 John 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)*