

Title: ~~The Door to His Life~~ *The Only Door*

Text: John 10:1-10

The Gospel of John, please. The Gospel of John chapter 10 and let's begin with Vs 1.

(Read 10:1-10)

Prayer

This Parable

(IC) ^{Now} I want you to look at ~~the shephred~~ in this portion of scripture in several ways.

(ID) First of all, the means by which ^{The shephred} he enters the fold. ^{and} *Concerning the means* ~~Chapter 10:2~~
We ^{want to} look at two things, here. One, negatively. And one positively.

(IE) Negatively, the shephred is not someone who climbs up some other way. The phrase "the other way" ^{vs 1} is a phraes of great contrast. Completely in contrast to the normal way which is through the door.

He discribes them as being thieves and robbers. And the application if you are following the context would be to the Pharisees, who ^{you} is still addressing. Because he says in Vs 1 "Truly, truly, I say to you."

Who is the "YOU?"....Back in Vs 40 ^{CH 9} "The Pharisees who were with him." So, he is making the application. He told them at the end of that 9th chapter that they were blind. And because they were blind their sin remained. They did not see their true condition of sinfulness and the fact that they needed a saviour. ~~And they did not see it.~~

And so now he makes another application. And the thieves and robbers would apply to the Pharisees who were trying to climb up into the fold by some other way.

In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5, the sermon on the mount, Jesus said in Vs 20 "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven."

They did try another way. ^{That way} And ~~it~~ was all external righteousness. It was not going through the door. It was coming up some other way.

and many people are like that today, they try to come to God by their own righteousness or goodness

(25) Then, nostively, he says that the true shephred is the ~~the~~ one, Vs 2, who enters by the door. That is the shephred of the sheep.

Now, you must get a picture, here, of what the fold is. And who the shephred is, and who the doorkeeper is. For all of this is important to an understanding of the passage.

~~The~~ The fold is not heaven....The fold is not the church...The fold, believe it or not, is Judaism....~~and~~, let's look at this carefully...

The fold that Jesus is talking about is not an individual fold for one flock of sheep. Oh No....What ^{you} he is talking about is ^{Common} ~~that~~ in every village when there were many shephreds and different ^{Flocks} ~~flocks~~ of sheep. ^A At the end of the day, when the shephred would sleep, if he was near a village, the village would have one fold. ~~usually~~ Usually with walls that were from 10 to 12 feet high...And the shepherds ~~would~~ would bring all of their sheep into this one fold. And there was a doorkeeper there who would guard the door throughout the night. Then in the morning the shephreds would come again and take ^{their} ~~his~~ sheep out-off the fold.

Now, there are many sheep in that fold who do not belong to just one shephred. All the different shephreds ~~come~~ come and put their sheep into one fold. That is the beauty of the passage. And that is how you will begin to understand some of the things that are said here.

In other words, the shephred comes in the morning and by the simple sound of his voice he calls his sheep. And all the sheep that are his come ~~out~~ out from among the rest of the sheep. And they follow their shephred into the pasture. You must see that or you will miss the interpretation.

So, the fold is not heaven. The fold is not the church. The fold is Judaism. And the Pharisees were trying to climb up by some other way. And not the way that God had designed from the O.T. scriptures. That is through the promise of the Messiah. And ^{But is the} ~~the~~ whole point here that Jesus is making, It is a tremendous teaching. But please remember this fold or you will not apply it correctly.

The other sheep that he mentions down in Vs 16 are not of this fold. That would refer to the Gentiles who are on the outside.

also, it refers to

dog

Now, remember the man who was born blind was put on the outside of the fold. And so when Jesus said in Vs 16, "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold, what a beautiful thing to say. What an encouragement to that man who was cast out-off the synogue. He wasn't in the fold of Judiam anymore. But he wasn't outside the promises of God. Because God has other sheep who he would also bring. In addition to the ones who were in the fold

Now, not all the ones in the fold are the sheep of the shephred in the story. Only the ones who hear his voice. And so all who are Jews are ~~not~~ not all spiritual Jews. They are not all going to be saved. Just as not all Gentiltes are going to be saved. But out off that fold of Judiasm the Shephred will come, coming through the door, through the promises, just like the Bible ~~says~~ *promised*. So, the doorkeeper opens the door.

(20) Now, the second thing that I want you to notice about the recognition of the Shephred is the manner inwhich the sheep respond. And there are three things there that you should note in Vs 3-5.

One, deals with the doorkeeper. Two deals with the shephred calling. And, three, with the Bheep hearing. One, the doorkeeper. Two, the shephred. Three, the sheep.

(18) Now, first the doorkeeper(KJ says Porter). According to Vs 3 "To Him"... meaning: "the shephred of the sheep", "the doorkeeper opnes."

O.K. who is the doorkeeper (or the Porter?)... Again if you understand the context, or the background of the scriptures, the doorkeeper is John the Bantist. No question about it. He is the one who opened to door, as it were, for the shephred of the Sheep. Remember his announcement? "Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."

Isn't it ~~beautiful~~ *wonderful* to know that the shephred of the sheep is also a lamb among the sheep? *Jesus* He is the one who died and paid for ~~their~~ *our* sins.

Don't John ~~said~~ *said*: "behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

And so the doorkeeper is John *the Bantist*. He announced. He came to prepare the way of the Lord. That was in fulfillment of Isa. chapter 40:1-3, when the Bible says that someone would come who would prepare the way of the Lord and make stright his paths.

And so John the Baptist in typology is the doorkeeper, who will open the door of the fold to the Shephred. It doesn't mean, then, that all the sheep are going to go out simply because the doorkeeper open it. And if you know the story of John the Baptist you know that is also true. Just because John the Baptist opened the door to the shephred who was going to call the sheep does not mean that all the sheep was going to follow the shephred. But, thank God, he did prepare the way. And he opened the door. He urged all to repent for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. So, the doorkeeper swings wide the door.

(2) Then, number two, we look at the shephred. According to Vs 3 the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. *and of course the Shephred is Jesus*

Again, looking at the situation of the times of Palestine the shephred would come early in the morning and call his sheep by name and lead them out to pasture. A couple of things here.

(1) Number one, the Bible teaches that shephred calls the sheep. When we talk about the calling of God, for example in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 1, the Apostle Paul wrote that we ought to walk worthy of the calling in which we have been called.

You don't call upon the Lord, and yet, in another sense you do.....

In Romans 10:13 Paul writes "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." And that is true.

But, we also learn in the Bible that God calls people to himself. There is a universal calling in the sense of "all people can be saved". And whoever calls upon the Lord, will be.

But, there is a special call in terms of who really will be saved out-off all those who are called. Only those who are his own sheep.

Now, a couple of things about the call is important. We have some classic illustrations of how certain individuals were called out-off the fold of Judiasm. Which Jesus is telling here in the Parable.

Example: turn to Matthew chapter 9 verse 9. Here is an individual who was definitely in the fold of Judasim. Matthew was a tax collector. He was collecting taxes for Rome. Therefore, he was a hated man by the Jews.

(3) Third The Sheep Haven Follow -5-

But in Vs 9 we read that Jesus passed by and saw Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow me! And he rose and followed Him."

you would have good illustration of what it means to have the christian life
You know, if you would take the picture of the shephred and the sheep, The sheep following the shredpred. And if you would picture that every time you read ~~the~~ the word "follow" in the Bible, you will have the context behind it. To follow Jesus Christ is to follow Him as a sheep would follow the shephred. To really understand what Jesus wants of you and me, in terms of ^{christian living, and} following him, you have got to look at what a sheep would do.

Now, there are several things that are important as far as that goes.

~~And~~ If you have ever watched the shephred with his sheep, you would notice that the sheep only go where the shephred goes. That is a characterisitic of the sheep. They don't have leadership built into them. There is no 'king Sheep', you see. The Shephred is the king. And we often forget that in the body of Christ. One of the beautiful illustrations of the church, the body of Christ, is that we are sheep. And their is a shephred. The sheep do not become KING sheep.

ant Now, some people say, "Well, only sheep reproduce sheep." That is true. But Shephred, "Jesus", in this case also reproduces sheep. For he himself is a sheep. He is a lamb as well as the shrphred.

(But,) the point is that sheep only follow. They follow the shephred. Jesus said, "Follow me." Do you really understand that?..... *Part yourself* yourself in the role of that sheep. *For we are sheeps*

Now, whether you like it or not, sheep are dumb. They really are. They are ~~dowm~~ right stupid. One of the most stupid ^{animals} ~~animals~~ around.

And that to we need to remember. We get so high and mighty, we believe we can run our lives without Christ. Or, we think we have a cornor on truth. And we try to get people to follow us.....Oh, no...The shephred is the truth. And we ought to follow ^{you} him out to pasture. We ought to spend mush time in ~~seeking~~ ^d direction from the shephred. Very important. Because where he leads is just the place we need to go.

ant A sheep never decides that he will not follow the shephred. He doesn't have the ability. But sheep often get lost.

They don't have the stubbornness to run away from the shephred and do there own thing. But they do have a tendence to get lost. Do you know what happens to a sheep when he gets lost and is left by himself?....

Boy, he gets into all kinds of trouble. He really does. He is helpless. And the woves will just eat him alive.

You see, we also need the shephred for protection. As well as providing for all of our needs.

There is a classic illustration of the shephred applied to Pastors in the local church in Acts chapter 20. I would like you to turn there please. Now, you may not be a pastor but since this speaks to me, I will share it with you. And tell you how the Lord convicts my heart. Acts chapter 20. Lets begin at Vs 16.....(READ Vs 16-17).....

Now, look down at Vs 28.....(READ Vs 28-30)

O.K. what is the point? A shephred not only feeds and provides food for the sheep, the sheep must follow him if they want food. But he also protects the flock from the dangers. Because they are not able to cope with it themselves. And each of us need to remain ourselves as sheep that we cannot take on the forces of Satan. We need the shephred. The shephred will provide food for us. And he will also protect us from all kinds of dangers, which in Vs 29 is external and in Vs 30 is internal.

The protection of The Shephred. Why? Because sheen above any other animal is prone to danger. All kinds of dangers. If that shephred doesn't watch where he is walking, for example, and he gets on ground that is full of thrones, do you know what the sheep will do.? They walk right through all those thrones. And they hurt themselves.

And again Follow me, says Jesus. Walk in his steps says Peter. Because the Shephred knows where we ought to go. And if we don't follow his steps, we will get into all kinds of trouble and bring hurt to ourselves.

Back to John chapter 10, please. So, The doorkeeper opens The door. And The shephred calls and leads his sheep. and the sheep Follow

(2) Notice, one other thing about the shephred calling. It says in Vs 3 that he calls his....own....

Now, that is interesting again from the illustration. When the shephred comes to the fold it isn't that there is a whole group of sheep and he decides, "Hay, I would like to have those 20 good ones over there." NO....it is only the ones that already belong to him in the fold who respond to the voice of the shephred. And there friends is a tremendous teaching in God's Word.

Do you know who is going to call ~~on~~ the name of the Lord? The ones He is going to call. Do you know who He is going to take out off the fold? It is the ones who already belong to him. He calls his own sheep by name. The Bible says that we have our names written in the lambs book of life before the foundation of the world.

In Ephesians 1:4 it says that we are chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. If you are not convinced, turn, please, to Romans 8 verses 28-30...Here we see the call of God in a ~~ser~~ series of doctrine that is being unfolded. Romans chapter 8 verses 28 to 30. Tremendous verses on the call of God. And his calling of his own sheep....Romans 8:28-30

(READ Vs 28)

Now, notice, you are the called according to His purpose. And if you are all things are working together for good.

Now, here is the explanation. Vs 29...."FOR WHOM HE FOREKNEW". Now, what is the meaning of "foreknew".....It means just what you think it means. That God knew something ahead of time.

Now, just stop and think about that for a moment.....Do you believe that God knows everything?.....I mean he has to if he is God....He is omnsceince. He knows everything.....Does He know everything that is going to happen tomorrow?.....Did God know in October that my wife was going to get sick on Thanksgiving day?.....Sure He did. He knows everything we are going through. As a matter of fact, if we don't believe that we will probable get into a lot of problems in our christian life. We will get bitter. We will get rebellious and discouraged and depressed because some how we think ~~on~~ we are going through just are not fare.....

Oh, no, God knows all about it. All your circumstande, or he isn't God.

He knows everything. The beginning from the end. He knows it all.

So, the first thing we begin with to prove the point of being called by God, and that he knew something about it ahead of time, is based upon his foreknowledge. He knows everything ahead of time.

Now, the second thing, and this is a series in the Greek. One follows upon the other. The next one, Vs 29, "he also predestined".....

That is quite a word. People often say, "Well, I don't believe in Predestination." I didn't realize there was a choice....It is in the Bible.

Now, there maybe some question as to what it means...But we all believe it, if we believe the Bible. The Bible teaches it.

Now, notice, Predestination is based upon God's foreknowledge. The fact that God knows everything ahead of time is the reason He predestinates.

Now, what does it mean to predestinate? Predestinate is much like the word "foreknowledge." That is it means to make out a plan ahead of time. It means to mark out a horizon, a boundary, before it actually happens. So, God has a blue print for lives before they actually come into existence. And that is based upon his foreknowledge, that he knows all things.

~~The~~ You are not accident. And that is probable encouraging. You are not accident of history. Listen, God knew about you from eternity past. He had it all on his mind. God knew everything ahead of time. And then he mapped out a plan ahead of time.

Now, what does that plan involve? According to Vs 29 "He predestined us to become conformed to the image of His son."

That is God's goal in predestination. It is not saying that we are not predestined to heaven. In a sense we are...But that is not the major objective of God in predestinating us. IT IS TO PREDESTINEATE US TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON. Likeness to Jesus Christ is the object of God's planning it ahead of time. He wants us to manifest the beauty of Jesus Christ. And He knew He had to map that out ahead of time.

You stop and think about that for a moment. It gets funny. Suppose God said to you: "WELL, YOU BE CHRISTLIKE"....Now, let's see if you would or not.....I doubt if we would. Because we are bent the other way.

You see, God had to program ahead of time. He really did. God has to perform that in the life of the believer. It is God who works in you both to will and to do his good pleasure. And that is quite a principle.

Now, in Vs 30, he says "and whom He predestined, these He also called"... Notice, God called you.....Under the whole plan, the plan he planned before hand which was ~~based~~ all based upon his foreknowledge, he planned to call you and me.....ISN'T THAT FANTASTIC?.....

When you receive Christ as your saviour, you are apt to say: "Hay, I called upon the name of the Lord." And from your perspective that is true.

But, you see, God has been calling you. He drew you to himself. When you thought you were bringing yourself to God. He knew about you before you were born. And he set out to call you.

Now, Vs 30,"and whom He called, these He also justified." No person is pronounced righteous who isn't ~~you~~ called by God.How about that?.....

There is no possibility of being righteous in your own efforts... WHY?Because you are pronounced righteous on the bases of the fact that God called you in His predestined plan which he knew ahead of time.

And finally, "whom He justified, these He also glorified." You know, a lot of people are waiting around to be glorified. Well, I understand what you mean. But the fact is that we already are. Positionally we are glorified with Christ. Isn't that great?.....

It is all settled. Isn't it great to know that your Christian life has been worked out by God?.....

Now, stone looking at me that way.....I haven't lost my marbles... Listen, God knew about this from the beginning. He knows everything you are going to go through in your life. And he knows how it is going to conclude.

Some people say, "Well, if that is true, I will just go jout and do what I want to.".....Go ahead and try.....(ha)

Listen, what gives people that idea?.....God will change your desires and wants. The Holy Spirit does that. That is why he equipped you the way he did. That is why he gave us the Holy Spirit. So that we cannot go out and just follow the old sin nature.

And people who try are absolutely miserable....And I am sure we could have a good testimonial meeting to that fact.....

I know christian who try. They are out living in sin. And they are miserable. They are just driving themselves up the wall in frustrations and discouragement and sin and everything else.....Go ahead and try....

Listen, in Psalms 56:8 it says that God has taken account of my wanderings away from him.

Now, how many times are you going to wander away from the Lord? I don't know. But he has counted them already. He knows all about it. And all the tears that you shed, all the hardaches and burdens. Listen, it says that all of your tears are in His bottle.....Isn't that great.....?

God has a little bottle for every life and he has all your tears, all your heartaches, all your broken heartedness, it is all in that bottle. He already knows all about it. HAY! THAT IS WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT.

Do you know what is at the root of every problem in our life? A misunderstanding of what God is doing.....That is right.....We need to understand the nature of God and what he is doing.

All of this is based upon a simple little thing. The shephred will call his own sheep. And the christian who really learns that is one who doesn't glorify man. Is one who isn't man centered in His view. But he gets God centered. And as soon as he gets God centered he begins to praise the Lord. He realizes that God chose him.

And the question would be WHY?....Why didn't God leave more ~~responsibility~~ responsibility to us? Sure we must respond to God by faith. But God knows whether we are or not.

Now, why did God do it this way? Do you know why? You see, the Bible tells us that we have been created and designed by God (Reve 4:11) to bring glory and honor and praise forever and ever. And God knows human nature pretty well. He knows that you and ~~me~~ I are not bent to praising Him or glorify Him. So, the Bible tells us three times in Epheians chapter 1 that the reason why God selected us ahead of time, before we were even born, was so that one day we would be to the praise of the glory of His grace...

Grace means that God is going to give you something that you don't deserve. Now, think about it for a moment!

I couldn't possible deserve grace because God called me before I was born. I never had a chance to prove whether I was worthy or not.

So, when I get to heaven, why am I going to praise the glory of God's grace forever? Why? Because I am going to realize that it is because of God that I am in heaven and not because of Bill Harrison. I will tell you that right now. That is why I am going to praise God forever.....And I think it is tremendous.....

God planned it. He called us to himself. So, when you think of that fold, just think of the beauty of it. The shephred coming in h~~o~~the morning. All kinds of sheep there. But his own sheep will listen to his voice. They is tremendous.

You don't listen to his voice and then become his sheep. No...The reason you listen to his voice is because you are his sheep. That is just so wonderful.

Now, let's come back to John chapter 10....So, the shephred calls. And he leads his own sheep.

(3E) And of course the third point, the sheep, they simple hear and follow.
And if you want the application, the way we hear God is to hear his word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

If we are following, we are aplying the instructions of the Saviour. We are daily ~~feeding~~ feeding on the pasture of His Word. We are seeking the solutions to what we should do and where we should go and how we should live. The direction of the shephred is here in the word of God. THE SHEEP WILL HEAR HIS VOICE. The SHEEP WILL FOLLOW HIM.....

Now, what does it mean to follow Christ? Again, it is ^{an} application of the Word of God to your life. It is hearing God's voice in His word. And following What God says.

And I could give you many illustrations from God's Word, but I haven't got the time..... Sheep hear and follw the Shephred.....

~~Let us hear & obey~~

Parable

(3D) Now, third, what is the meaning of this ~~illustration~~ *Parable* from Verse 6-10.

I want you to see three major things here.

(1A) One, the problem of their understanding. *that* *many folks* say, "there are some things in the Bible that I don't understand." Well, cheer up. Neither did the disciples.

Vs 6, "This parable Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them."

They didn't get the point....So, now, Jesus is going to make it a little stronger. *And if you don't understand yet - I hope you will now*

(2A)⁵⁰ The second thing that I want you to ~~see~~ *notice* is the principles of interpretation, here. Vs 7-9. *Three* ~~Four~~ things here that I want you to see.

(1F) Number one, as to the door. And Jesus does a wonderful thing here. The door that the ~~porter~~ *doorkeeper* opens, he opened to the shephred who would be standing there to call the sheep out-off the fold to go to pasture. Now, in the application and intpretatiion, Jesus is not only the Shephred standing there, but also he, very beautifully says: "I am that door." *vs 9*

John the Baptist onned "THE DOOR"....for the sheep to go out. Jesus said "I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP." Both the shephred standing outside the fold, and He is the door ~~to~~ *into* the fold.... *TReminders* *Naturally*...Because the whole issue of ~~Judians~~ *Salvator* is the Messiah. The Messiah...He is the door. So, he identifies himself in the way. I AM THE DOOR...OF THE SHEEP... *Jesus calls TO SALVATI*

(2A) Secondly, as to thieves and robbers. In Vs 8 Jesus makes the ~~applic~~ application that "all who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.'

And that is literally true. There were all kinds of Messiahs and religious leaders who claimed authority. ALL WHO CAME BEFORE ME ARE THIEVES AND ROBBERS."

They are not the door. That is quite a statement.....It is not just those who might be bad people. It is all those...no matter who they are. ALL BEFORE ME ARE NOT THE DOOR...PERIOD....So, that would include all those who are trying to come up some other way and not go through the door of the Messianic hope...JESUS IS THE MESSIAH. THE PROMISE OF GOD WAS THROUGH MESSIAH *the*

(3F)

Third, as to the sheep. Once again he says that the sheep did not hear them. Oh, they hear the voice of Jesus, but they did not hear them. They didn't respond to ~~them~~ The Thieves and robbers.

Now, some people have ask. "Did the sheep respond to Jeus when he was first here. After all didn't they reject him?"

Again, go back to the fold. It is true that the fold rejected. But there were individual sheep in the fold, in fact multitudes, who did believe in Jes s. And did ~~follow~~ follow the shephred. Even though the fold as it were rejected the shephred. But individual sheep did respond to the shephred. And they continue to do so. As he indicates in Vs 16 "There are other sheep who are not in ~~the~~ the fold of Judiasm who will respond to the shephred.

Fourth, notice the ~~very~~ importance of this in Vs 9 .. And this I believe is one of the greatest vaerse on salvation that we find in the Bible. There are really seven facts there. And I would like to list them for you.

(1) One, I am the door. ^{vs 9} The clear teaching here is that there is no other way. He could have said "I am a door." Meaning one of many. ^{To get to God!} But NO, he said "I AM THE DOOR." The only possible door there is. Now, he has already said that HE IS THE DOOR. Christ's way is a narrow way. Jesus said in John 14:6 I AM THE WAY. Not, A way. But THE WAY. He is the door.

(2) Now, the little phrase "through me" is very important. For example, take it out of the text and see what you have. "I AM THE DOOR: IF ANYONE ENTERS HE SHALL BE SAVED.".....Isn't that true also?.....

Now, think about it carefully....Just take out the words "through me".. and ~~the~~ read the Vs again. "I AM THE DOOR: IF ANYONE ENTERS HE SHALL BE SAVED".....TRUE OR FALSE.....WHAT IS IT?.....(ANYONE)....It is true...

But the "by me" or "through me" is important in terms of how we are going to do it. You can only enter or be saved "BY ME".

In other words, people don't save themselves and enter in by themselves. The issue here is that we need the power, the enabling power of God in order to believe.....It is quite a statement....

It only re-inforces what we learned earlier. And that is that he calls his own sheep by name and they follow him .

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You need the power of Christ upon you in order to believe. The very ability to believe is given by God, himself.

You say, how do you know that? Ephesians 2:8-9 is a great text to prove it. It says for by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourself, not out-off yourself, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast."

God will give you the compassion and ability to believe.

And by the way, if right now you sense a real response to the Lord, thank God that he is working with you and giving you that response right now.

3) Third, "If anyone"....The gift of salvation is universal. If anyone will come through that door he will be saved. It is opened to anyone.

Some folks say, "Well, I don't understand this. If he just takes His own sheep, how is it really available to everyone?"

The answer is that Christ's death on the cross was definitely sufficient for the sins of the whole world. No question about that. The Bible teaches ~~that~~. That Christ died in the behalf of all people.

I John 2:2 says that Christ died for the sins of the whole world. I Timothy 2:6 says that he died as a ~~ransom~~ ^{ransom} in the behalf of all. Christ's death was sufficient for every man, woman and child who has ever lived in the history of the world. And we should expect the same. Because God was in human flesh substituting his life for the sum total of all human life which he, himself, created. And which is sustained by his own life. A tremendous miracle of substitution at the cross. It is sufficient for everyone.

But, as we often say, It is only ~~effective~~ ^{effective}... Meaning:...it only works for....it is only applied to "those who believe...."

And that is why the Bible teaches in Matthew 20:28 that he gave his life a ransom for the many. That is "the many who will believe in him."

His life, certainly, was sufficient for all people, but it only works for the ones who believe. *That is why you must believe - or you are lost*

Don't ever believe that the Gospel cannot be received by every last person....YES, IT CAN.....But it is only ~~effective~~ ^{effective} to those who believe. It is only applied to those who do believe *in Jesus as savior.*

(4) Fourth, ~~we~~ ^{2. for them no} ~~in~~ ^{word}. A single phrase indicating a single act of faith by which one does become a member of the fold, a part of the sheep of the shephred.

(5) And fiveth, the results include freedom, and deliverance from the penit penitity of sin. "He shall be saved." Saved from what?....In the case of the sheep: Saved from dangers that would result in the lose of life. And that can be applied to all of us because the penalty of sin is death: seneration from God forever. *You are delivered from the Penalty of sin*

(6) The sixth thing is beautiful because the sheep do go "in and out" with that shephred. They have complete freedom ~~as~~ as they hear his voice and follow him. So, shall we ~~go~~ go "in and out" with complete freedom. ~~as~~

(7) Then, seventh, "to find pasture." The provesion for all of our ~~needs~~ needs. This remains me of Psalms 23. (ask people to quote Psams 23)

Isn't that wonderful. I don't know of a christian who can't find joy and comfort in that passage.

ant ~~Did you understand what that passage said.~~ Did you understand what that passage said. "He prepares a table before me.".....I like that...You know, his sheep never get hungrey.... because the shephred provides the food that they need.

Now, if they do *get* hungrey, what is the reason? They are not going to get the food from the shephred. The shephred provides food for the sheep.

(3E) Then ~~by~~ *Final*, notice Vs 10, the *purpose of his coming* ~~avaiation of this illustration.~~
(Read Vs 10)

Jeus has come that we might have life and life more abundantly. And thss is in contrast to the thief who comes to steal and kill and destroy.

or Now, if you are a good Bible student you will notice that there has been a change in the text from what you had before. Because what you had before in Vs 1 is a thief and a robber;

Then Vs 8: "All who came before me are thieves and robbers"

But in Vs 10 he says "THE THIEF".....~~the~~....Not, a thief...Not all the ~~thieves~~ thieves who came before me.....BUT THE THIEF...

What is he talking about? He is talking about the counterfeit shephred.....The counterfeit shephred comes to destroy. While the true shephred comes to give life.

Would you turn in your Bibles to Zechariah. Zechariah chapter 11... Zechariah chapter 11 and let's begin with Vs 15....(READ VS 15-17)

Now, contrast those verses with chapter 12 verse 8...(READ VS 8-10) What a contrast.

But looking back at chapter 11 again. That false shephred is the Anti-christ. The great world political ruler who is yet to appear on the sence. But if you take all these things that it says about the worthless shephred and put them into the positive, WHAT DO YOU HAVE?....

You have the characteristics of the good shephred. Look at it again. The good shephrd is one who cares for the perishing....He seeks the scatteredHe heals that which is broken.....He sustain the one standing..... and he will not devour the flesh of the sheep and tear off their hoofs...

You know, friends, God wants to bless us more than we want to receive it. The shephred wants to give to the sheep. He wants to take care of the sheep. He wants to feed the sheep. He loves ~~you~~ *the 5 Sheep*

And you know, if you are not related to a shephred like that, I feel sorry for you. Jesus loves you so much that he wants to ~~take care of you.~~ *give you life -*

And isn't it sad that ~~those who are his sheep,~~ *when God calls you* don't know ~~enough~~ *trust* to follow him. And to go to the pasure of his wonderful provession.

ad Christ, If you are hungry, if you are discouraged, if you are lacking direction, maybe it is because you are not following the shephred....Follow him... Jesus said: Follow me.....

Let us close in prayer