

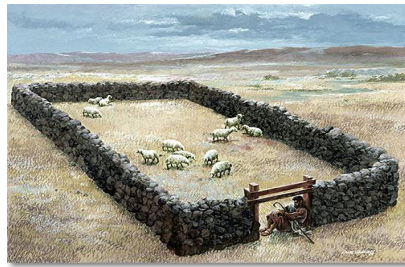


Celebrating The Birth of the Open Door

Sunday Sermon – 12/24/2023

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.



Let's continue to look at the Year of the Open Door

This is the year 5784, and I believe that this is the season that Jesus has opened special doors for believers born again Christians to take advantage of.

The greatest and most effective open door is the door that gives us the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is by hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ that we are saved and enter into the Kingdom of God where all our needs and desires are provided for.

The second greatest and most effective door is the opportunity to share the glorious gospel of the Kingdom of God. The gospel that Jesus Christ saves and offers (Zoe) the abundant life.

Christmas is all about celebrating the Gift of Father God (Jesus Christ), who is the door to eternal life and salvation. Unless we hear the Word of God, we cannot take advantage of this door.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ...14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

No one can get to the Father without going through the door which is Jesus Christ.



Now Father God has taken on the responsibility of drawing people to Jesus so they can take advantage of the open door for salvation. **John 6:44-45 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

Not only is it Father God's responsibility to draw humanity to Jesus, but the Father takes on the responsibility of giving opportunity to learn. **“Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me”.**

We are all wrapped up and tied up in God, we can't get to the father without going through Jesus. And we can't get to Jesus without the Father drawing us to Jesus!

In Jesus says **John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,** Salvation is an instant act and an act of progression all at the same time.

The Total Progression of Salvation for the Believer. Saved from the Penalty, Power, and Presence of sin.

1. Spirit - is saved from the penalty of sin. **Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**
2. Soul - Being saved from the power of sin. **Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.**
3. Body - will be saved from the presence of sin. **1 Corinthians 15:52 (NLT) It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.**

As we celebrate Christmas, we should celebrate the gift of the Father, (the birth of Jesus) who is the main door for humanity's access to salvation and life.

Salvation and Life are the main gifts we get when we receive Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ is the gift that keeps on giving.

Salvation-Sozo- *the Greek word here for saved is sozo which means kept safe and delivered. To save, deliver, make whole, preserve safe from danger, loss, destruction.*

...and will go in and out and find pasture (Life).

Life-Zoe-Greek meaning life that is Eternal, real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, Life that comes directly from God. Life Abundantly, over, and above, more than is necessary in every area, Life that is super added to.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's celebrate God's perfect gift Jesus Christ, that makes life and salvation available.



The Father drew us to Jesus who is the open door, by revealing to us who Jesus is. This is the revelation we must get of Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus is the door. The main access point for salvation and all that is good.

James 1:16-17 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights,

The door of salvation swings both ways, grace, faith, our needs and desires come through it. **Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith,**

God doesn't just want us to have fire insurance but He wants us to have His complete package so we can live life in abundance!

and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Grace and faith are both a gift from God's Love, it allows us to accept His major Gift which is Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Grace is a gift from God that makes everything we need available for us that we do not deserve. **2 Peter 1:2-4 May God give you more and more grace and peace** (we don't earn it, it is given)

as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. (The more knowledge we have of who Jesus is to us and for us, the more our faith will grow).

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises.

As we unwrap the knowledge of the gift of God (who is Jesus Christ) the more of what God has given us, will manifest in our lives.

Faith is given so we can obtain what grace makes available.