

# The True Gate & the True Shepherd

John 10.1-21

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# The Christocentric Significance of John 10.1-21

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- ❖ While we have a chapter division here in our Bibles, in reality, the dialogue of chapter 9 continues uninterrupted into chapter 10. It will embrace the healed man in a relationship of breathtaking significance with the One he is worshipping, while the Pharisees who are spiritually blind will continue to fail to comprehend some of the most profound and comforting revelations found in the person of the One and Only.
- ❖ The conversation continues with Jesus speaking to the Pharisees, and the healed man as well as the disciples also hearing the words of Jesus. All parties will be included in the descriptions that Jesus will use to characterize those who hear his voice and follow him and those who are wolves, hired hands, and strangers.
- ❖ Figures of speech, descriptions of contrast, and corresponding dynamics characterize this passage: sheep and shepherd; sheep, stranger, and shepherd, shepherd and hired hand, “I/me” and thief, sheep and wolf, death and life, listening, knowing and following. All will serve to define the preeminence of Christ in his sufficiency and authority.

- ❖ Chapter 9 described the sixth of the seven signs that John curated to reveal the glory of Jesus (cf. John 1.14) and presented Jesus in messianic fulfillment as the ultimate healer and purveyor of grace; chapter 10 presents two more of the “I AM” declarations of Jesus, fulfilling in the person of Jesus one of the most profound Old Testament images of God in covenant relationship with His people (cf. Psalm 23; Isaiah 40.11; Ezekiel 34.16, 23; Micah 5.4).
- ❖ Unapologetically and without qualification, Jesus will present himself as the exclusive access to salvation. He will be unequivocal in declaring that there are no alternatives to his care and actions on behalf of the sheep. In stating thus, he will declare himself to be the willing and vicarious sacrifice who came as the singular means and with sufficient authority to determine the composition of the “one flock.” This is original Christology—not the claims of someone else, but the words of Jesus Christ himself.
- ❖ The unambiguous nature of Jesus’ declarations will be reinforced with his use of repeated emphasis as he drives home these truths—Truth that ultimately determines the destiny and well-being of every one in the world.

# The Christocentric Gospel

*A diminished Christology is no gospel at all!*

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I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

—Galatians 1.6-12

# — JESUS ONLY —

A. B. SIMPSON

Jesus only is our message, Jesus all our theme shall be;  
We will lift up Jesus ever, Jesus only will we see.

Jesus only, Jesus ever, Jesus all in all we sing,  
Savior, Sanctifier, and Healer, glorious Lord and coming King.

Jesus only is our Savior, all our guilt He bore away,  
All our righteousness He gives us, all our strength from day to day.

Jesus is our Sanctifier, cleansing us from self and sin,  
And with all His Spirit's fullness, filling all our hearts within.

Jesus only is our Healer, all our sicknesses He bare,  
And His risen life and fullness, all His members still may share.

Jesus only is our Power, He the Gift of Pentecost,  
Jesus, breathe Thy pow'r upon us, fill us with the Holy Ghost.

And for Jesus we are waiting, list'ning for the Advent call;  
But 'twill still be Jesus only, Jesus ever, all in all.

*Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits before His throne,  
and from Jesus Christ,  
who is the Faithful Witness,  
the Firstborn from the dead,  
and the Ruler of the kings of the earth.*

*To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood,  
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father —  
to Him be glory and power for ever and ever!*

*Amen.*

*— Revelation 1.4-6 —*