

Morning Worship

April 28, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus	<i>I Will Enter His Gates</i>	Don/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Scripture Reading	Exodus 12:21-28	Don/People
Hymn # 4	<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Don/People
Hymn # 52	<i>He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought</i>	Don/People
Hymn # 62	<i>All the Way My Savior Leads Me</i>	Don/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Marcia Hart
Children's Worship		(Children are dismissed)
Scripture Reading	John 10:1-10	Allan/People
Message	<i>The Door</i>	Allan Lane
Hymn # 312	<i>Softly and Tenderly</i>	Don/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus # 33	<i>Hallelujah! Praise the Lamb</i>	Don/People

The Door

John 10:1-10 April 29, 2018 am

In today's Scripture lesson Jesus is trying to help the people understand that the Pharisees weren't really their shepherds but false teachers. He wanted them to learn that only people who attend to them like He does are actually their spiritual shepherds.

1. The Allegation . (verse 1)

Access to the sheep could only be granted by one of two ways. Either you had to enter by the way of the porter or you had to sneak in over the wall. Jesus made a very clear indictment concerning the teachers of the law and priests who regarded themselves as shepherds of the people. He was saying, true shepherds come by the way of the porter (God) to care for you, but the Pharisees are thieves who are trying to lead you astray.

Jesus calls these men thieves (kleptes – one who steals with stealth) and robbers (lestes – one who takes with violence). For example, the first steals by hiding it underneath his coat while the second steals it at gun point. If that isn't a description of false teachers, then what is?

There are those who will use cunning deception to lead others astray and there are those who will use force and manipulation to get their way. And Jesus is declaring that the Pharisees and other religious leaders of His day are false teachers.

2. The Association . (verses 2-4)

It is important to understand the message here. There are many false teachers about us knowingly and unknowingly leading people astray. In fact, I am sure that the vast majority of the Pharisees thought that they were doing the right thing – yet they were dead wrong. They were religion without relationship. Christianity is religion with relationship.

It is not a coincidence that Jesus refers to people as sheep. After all, we are pretty dumb animals. We'll follow someone because they tickle our ears or rub our tummies not realizing that they are leading us astray. It is imperative we learn how to identify a good shepherd who comes from God.

False teachers are anyone who espouses instruction for living that is contrary to the Word and will of God, whether it is philosophy, theology, music, political...you name it.

a. Good Shepherds are Called of God.

As we will see in a few minutes, the gate refers to Jesus. Thus a good shepherd is identifiable by the call of God. He does not obtain his position by the ways of this world, but by the leading and influence of God's Spirit. False teachers gain their position through legacy, politics, self-declaration, and human ingenuity. (Joseph Smith, Mohamed, etc.)

b. Good Shepherds are Led by God.

AND

c. Good Shepherds Lead Sheep to God.

He does not carve a path that seems right to himself but understands that he has received a divine commission from God to win people to faith, grow them up in the faith, and send them out to share the faith. False teachers have their own agenda and have little if any interest in God's agenda. If anyone ever teaches a message contrary to the Word and will of God then they are apostates leading you astray.

For example, what if I told you that you did not have to bring your tithes and offering to God. Some of you might be elated. To some it would be music to their ears because they've been looking for a reason to hold on to "their" money without conviction. The problem is I would be leading you astray away from God because God commands and demands your faithfulness with all your resources asking that you bring the first 10th to the storehouse to care for the work of God.

d. Good Shepherds Speak of God.

The first sign of a Godly shepherd is he speaks God's Word and not his own words. If the truth gets watered down and you start to feel good about yourself even though you're in sin, then you have reason to worry because you've been sucked into a lie. God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's man will never allow you to live in a perpetual state of sin without conviction, confrontation, and chastisement. (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:2)

You know, I'd be a liar if I didn't admit that I like to hear myself talk just as much as the next guy. But the truth is I've nothing to offer you but the Word of God. If you don't like it when God's Word stomps on your toes – Well, GREAT! Your problem isn't with me. It's with God.

My job is to the best of my ability share with you the truth as I have received it into my heart from God. It's not my job to convict or convert, but simply to convey.

3. The Assessment . (verse 5)

People of the Word seldom get lead astray. In fact, when they hear false teaching, they recognize it and either flee from it or confront it. If you are constantly being led astray by the craftiness of the world and the instruction of false teachers it means that you are either lost (unsaved) or else you are immature (a babe in Christ).

The only way to change the condition of your soul is to receive Christ by faith, confessing your sinfulness and need for Him, and receiving His payment for you on the cross. The only way to grow up is by becoming a hearer and doer of the Word. It's by reading and obeying its precepts. (2 Timothy 2:15)

4. The Announcement . (verses 6-10)

Here is where I believe Jesus transitions to refer to the shepherd who is tending his sheep in the country. Remember, the sheepfold in the country was a smaller low-walled corral with a single narrow entrance. Here is where it gets interesting. The corral had a narrow opening, but there was no gate. The shepherd slept in the entrance becoming the door.

The great preacher G. Campbell Morgan once traveled across the Atlantic with the great O.T. scholar, Sir George Adam Smith. On their voyage, the two men began discussing this text and Smith shared a personal incident:

While traveling in the East, Smith came upon a shepherd with his sheep. He initiated a conversation which led the man to show Smith the fold where he led the sheep at night. It consisted of 4-walls and a narrow opening. Smith asked, "This is where they go at night?" The shepherd replied, "Yes, and when they are in there they are perfectly safe." Smith replied, "But there is no door." The shepherd responded, "I am the door."

Of course, this particular shepherd was not a Christian man. He was simply speaking from an Arab shepherd's point of view.

Smith asked, "What do you mean you are the door?" The shepherd replied, "When the light has gone, and all the sheep are inside, I lie in the open space, and no sheep ever goes out but across my body, and no wolf comes in unless he crosses my body; I am the door."

This is precisely what Jesus is saying to us here in this text. He says, "I am the door! To go into the fold, you must go through me. To go out to pasture, you must go through me."

As the door, Jesus is the protector and provider of the sheep. Thus, when you come in the door, you are not only saved, but you are safe and secure. When you go out to pasture, you are nurtured and satisfied.

What does that mean? Jesus is ...

a. The Gate of Salvation .

First, He makes an EXCLUSIVE Declaration. Jesus is the one and only gate – the sole way to God. This is a fundamental truth of Christianity. If there is no Jesus, then there is no way to God, no truth about God, and no life with God. Jesus made an exclusive claim here. He is saying "I am God. I am the only way to God." No other religions leaders have ever made such a bold claim and were able to back it up. Why? Because they were men but Jesus was God in the flesh.

Second, He makes an INCLUSIVE Invitation. He says "If anyone enters." Salvation is available to anyone who will believe. It's not based upon effort, ability, looks, or deeds. It is based solely upon the work of God. This is why it must be exclusive because only Christ died. But it is inclusive, because Jesus died for all who would

believe. Salvation is available to everyone, but it's not automatic. You must believe and receive when the Spirit of God calls and convicts.

b. The Gate of Security .

There is a two-fold security here. There is the security of my eternal life – salvation (John 10:28) and there is the security of my earthly life.

God wants me to know that no matter how great the trial or temptation, that I am safe in His care. He tells me to trust Him, cast my cares upon Him, consider all things joy in Him, and believe that He will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory. God wants me to know that I am His child and that I am in His care.

c. The Gate of Satisfaction .

Jesus came to satisfy the wrath of God and bring us into a peaceful relationship with the Father satisfying the God-shaped vacuum in our souls. He also came to give us purpose on this earth. He came to lead us that we might have value in this life for His kingdom and His glory. He wants you to have joy, happiness, and fulfillment – but he wants the source to be Himself. As believers, we will never find fulfillment in the things of this world because God jealously wants us to find our satisfaction in Him alone.

Conclusion

Today let's just close with this. Chapter 10 has been referred to by some as a double parable. In verse 10 Jesus sums up the first half. In the following verses, which we will look at next week, He goes on to explain the second half of the parable by telling them not only is He the door, but also the good shepherd. He reminds them again that the Pharisees were only interested in stealing, killing, and destroying the sheep. They were doing the work of Satan by doing so. This Jesus: Often the Pharisees questioned where He got His authority to do what He did. They questioned whether it came from Satan or Beelzebub. Actually, His claims of deity proved He was the one who had come to give them not only life, but abundant life. This abundance is a quality of life as well as eternity of life.

In Psalm 23, King David states that: "The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Shall not want of what? He is the one who leads the flock to green pastures and quiet waters. He provides refreshment to the soul. He provides overflowing abundance even in the face of David's enemies. He brings through the shadow of death. He provides goodness and mercy throughout life and the promise of dwelling in the house of Yahweh forever. This is the promise of Jesus to all His sheep, not just David.

We can see that we must listen for the voice of Jesus, and not just the voice of the preacher, singer, or some other religious authority. The best that a preacher can do is to preach God's Word, to tell people what God wants. He is sort of the under-shepherd. But like the Pharisees of Jesus' day, there are plenty of wolves in sheep's clothing and plenty of devils with the title "Reverend." The good news is that if you are God's sheep, you cannot ultimately be led astray, even by a slick preacher. Sheep do indeed go astray, but the good shepherd will leave the ninety and nine to find you. Your eternal protection is a gift from God, not a matter of works. Apart from Jesus, we could only be led away for destruction. Our works cannot help us. We are helpless sheep. But we are HIS sheep, the people of HIS pasture.

Jesus said if anyone will enter, they can enter. Perhaps you are not yet His sheep. Ask the Lord to open the door and let you in. Jesus says that all who come to

Him, He will absolutely not turn away. This promise is for you, if you will only listen and come.

Enter In to Jesus!

Is Our Denomination Dying?

Our church email recently yielded an invitation to LifeWay's Breakfast at the Southern Baptist Convention this June in Dallas. Before you start thinking how special we must be that LifeWay wants to feed us breakfast, I'm sure every SBC church with an email address got one. Here's what the invite said:

The Southern Baptist Convention has reached a pivotal moment regarding its future. There is no denying our evangelistic apathy has reached epidemic proportions. While the population and the number of churches in the SBC are growing, we are failing to reach our communities. As a result, our denomination is shrinking; some might even say it's dying.

Join us Tuesday, June 12 for a free breakfast discussion and Q&A session with Thom S. Rainer, President and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Taking place during the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas, we will discuss:

Is there enough time to reverse this trend?

What can we, as a denomination, learn from the 30-35% of our churches who are experiencing an exciting level of conversion growth?

Even more importantly, what can your church take and apply right away to see evangelistic growth on its own?

This isn't the only place where our decline is being discussed. If you have access to the internet, just google Are *Southern Baptists Dying?* and it'll produce approximately 2,520,000 results in just 0.63 seconds. We've been hearing about our decline for some time. Here are just a couple items: *Total membership has decreased 2% since 2007. Total baptisms have decreased 20% since 1999.* But is this something we can solve with a few breakfast suggestions? After all, Ed Stetzer of LifeWay Research says, "The membership decline of the SBC is not a matter of debate, it is a matter of math." Fortunately, Ed offers 4 useful recommendations for SBC pastors.

- 1. Work together rather than bicker.** Rally around the mission of God and partnership through our theological consensus.
- 2. Engage new leaders.** Partner with, encourage, and learn from leaders of different generations and ethnicities.
- 3. Reach more people and plant more churches.** Church planters are a gift and should not be viewed as competition.
- 4. Don't be discouraged.** Instead, focus on pulling together and joining on mission. Good things are still happening.

Stetzer also says, "The SBC is not the only denomination in decline. In fact, many are. It is difficult for a ministry to sustain high results past 7 years and lasting a generation is even more difficult."

So what do you think are the keys to reviving a denomination like the SBC? Everyone has an opinion. Odds are your answer will match at least one of those 2,520,000 google search results. I didn't read them all, but I did glance through a few. They range from very complex plans and programs to the obvious oversimplified. For example, in a June 13, 2017 blog Josh Daffern says it's as simple as *we've removed the Holy Spirit from our churches.* Whatever.

While that might be true, the head of LifeWay Thom Rainer's September 14, 2016 blog offers *Five Reasons Why Churches Are Dying and Declining Faster Today.* Here they are:

1. Cultural Christianity is declining rapidly. *It is really a misnomer to call it "cultural Christianity," since it's not true faith in Christ. In the past, many people felt it was culturally, economically, or politically advantageous to be a part of a congregation, even if they weren't true believers in Christ. These attending non-believers padded our numbers. Or to say it another way, the pool of willing attenders has diminished greatly.*

2. The exit of the Builder generation. *The Builder generation has kept many churches alive, even if the congregations are on life support. This generation, born before 1946, is fiercely loyal to institutions, including local churches. They stuck with congregations in good and bad times. But, in 2015, there were only 28 million Builders left. Another 13,000 Builders die every week. The loyal*

generation is few in number and will soon be no more.

3. Migration from rural areas and small towns to the cities. In 1790, only 5% of Americans lived in cities. By the 1960s, the percentage of Americans in cities skyrocketed to 65%. Today over 80% of Americans are city dwellers. Rural and small-town churches held on tenaciously to their members for over two centuries. But the population base for those tenacious churches has dwindled dramatically.

4. Faster church transfers. Those who are transferring from one church to another are concentrating in fewer churches. Simply stated, a few churches are getting bigger at the expense of smaller churches. While that phenomenon has been in play for quite a while, it is now accelerating. The old barrier that held people in specific churches – family connections, denominational loyalty, and loyalty to a specific congregation – are no longer barriers today. People move with great freedom from church to church.

5. Slow response to change as change accelerates all around us. Many churches are incredibly slow to change. For most of our American history, the pace of cultural and technological change was sufficiently paced for churches to lag only five to ten years. Now churches are lagging 20 and 30 years as the pace of change increases dramatically. To many attendees and members, the church thus seems increasingly irrelevant. To be clear, I am speaking about issues of style, methodology, and awareness, not changing doctrine or biblical truths. A church guest I recently interviewed said it clearly: "I stuck with my parents' church as long as I could. But when we had a big blow up over projection screens in the worship center, I had enough. I wanted to go to a church where matters of minutia were not issues to fight over."

Rainer goes on to say "If you think it is more difficult to lead a church to growth, you are right. If you have noticed the decline in your church is greater, you are probably right as well. And if you are to the point of realization that your church may die in the next few years, it may come sooner than that. In future posts, I will address how smaller churches can deal with these challenges. Warning: the solutions are simple but not easy."

So, what are we to do? It's obvious churches are declining, but apart from God sending revival in our midst, it will continue. We know what brings revival. It's when God's people get right with Him. Are we willing to do what it takes to see God work?

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Larry McKahan

Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

SJBA Semi-Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

Need a Ride? The Van will leave at 3:15 pm.

No Evening Services.....

Monday, April 30

SS Workers Mtg. CANCELLED

Wednesday, May 2

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel,

Ken Kirkpatrick, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Ken Nice

Monday, May 7

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, May 9

Prayer Warriors..... 10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

April 29 — Semi-Annual Meeting, FBC Maysville

May 3 — Senior Adult Event

May 7 — Food Kitchen

May 9 — Prayer Warriors

May 13 — Mother's Day

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday night services tonight at 6:30 pm. However, when we meet again (in May) we will begin a study entitled: *A Case for Faith* with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer

and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Senior Adult Event Thursday, May 3, 10:00 am
First Baptist Church
Stewartsville, MO

Brother Randy Harr will be speaking. Group singing, devotional, committee reports, old and new business, and a special project presentation brought by Brother Roger Brumley are just some of the things we will cover that day. We will end with lunch and fellowship.

**Mother's Day
is
May 13**

Thank You

I would like to thank Calvary Baptist Church for your prayers during my cancer treatments. While I have known your Pastor and his wife for about 39 years, it was a joy to know that a church family (who had never met me) prayed for me and my wife during a difficult time. Treatments were complete on February 1, 2018 and during my first follow-up screening on March 15, 2018 was given the report of "clear." God is powerful and able to change lives in EVERY way through Christ. Thanks Again!

Russ Johnson, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Granby, MO

For the Record-

Attendance: April 22, 2018

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	28
Contacts Made.....	13
Morning Worship.....	42
Children's Worship.....	10
Wednesday Night	7

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39

Offering Received ... \$ 1,661.03
Annie Armstrong..... \$ 1,840.00
Long Family - April... \$ 110.00

Offering Received by Mail:

George Ferbert

May Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

May Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a
ride.

May Member Birthdays:

03... Vicki Long
11... Hannah Schottel
12... Rev. A. B. Brown
17... Arlette Duty
20... Pam Eldredge
20... Erin Molloy
20... Mike Green

May Anniversaries

Russ and Nancy McCamy
May 22, 1982

Prayer Requests ...

Mike Green—infection in knee
Larry McKahan—inflection
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Swymeler's Grandsons—kidney issues
Jessica Kirkpatrick and baby Levi
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Joyce Cook—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Arlette Duty—strength
Gina Harr—strength
Don Beavers—heart and health
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
