

## John 10:7–21 – “The Good Shepherd”

*The good Shepherd gave his life that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly, it is only by following the Good shepherds guiding that we experience abundant life.*

### **The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:**

In John 10, Jesus continues His teaching from the healing of the blind man, contrasting Himself with Israel’s corrupt religious leaders. The Pharisees, who should have cared for God’s people, acted as false shepherds—using their authority for power and control. Against that backdrop, Jesus declared, “I am the door of the sheep” and “I am the good Shepherd.” Ancient sheepfolds had one entrance, guarded by the shepherd himself. He became the door—protecting the flock and allowing entry only to those who belonged. This image perfectly illustrated salvation and fellowship in Christ. Unlike thieves who exploit, Jesus offers safety, provision, and abundant life.

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### **Passage Outline**

- **I. The Only Door to Abundant Life (vv. 7–10)**
  - **II. The Good Shepherd Who Lays Down His Life (vv. 11–16)**
  - **III. The Father’s Love and the Son’s Obedience (vv. 17–21)**
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### **Passage Notes**

#### **I. The Only Door to Abundant Life (vv. 7–10)**

Jesus declared, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.” Salvation is received through faith in Him alone—no works, no additions. Yet this new life extends beyond forgiveness; it’s an invitation to fellowship and growth. As sheep follow their Shepherd’s voice, they find “pasture,” symbolizing peace, joy, and spiritual fruitfulness. In contrast, “the thief” represents Satan and false teachers who steal joy, kill growth, and destroy fellowship.

#### **II. The Good Shepherd Who Lays Down His Life (vv. 11–16)**

Jesus identified Himself as “the good Shepherd” who gives His life for the sheep. Unlike hirelings who flee in danger, Jesus voluntarily laid down His life to save and secure His flock. He knows His sheep

personally, and they know His voice. His sacrifice unites both Jew and Gentile believers into “one flock and one Shepherd,” forming the Church—His body on earth.

### **III. The Father’s Love and the Son’s Obedience (vv. 17–21)**

The Father’s special love for the Son is seen in Christ’s perfect obedience: “I lay down My life that I may take it again.” No one took His life—He willingly gave it. His death revealed grace, and His resurrection confirmed His divine authority. The result? Division among the people—some believed, others rejected Him—but truth always divides light from darkness.

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#### **The Modern World – Relevance Today:**

In a world full of deceptive voices, Jesus alone offers real security and spiritual abundance. Following His Word protects believers from lies that rob peace and distort truth. Life’s fullness isn’t measured by wealth or comfort but by daily fellowship with Christ.

#### **The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:**

Every believer faces moments of choice—follow the Shepherd’s voice or the world’s noise. Obedience brings clarity, joy, and stability. Like sheep who stay near their shepherd, Christians thrive only when guided by His Word and Spirit.

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#### **What This Means for Us**

- **Abundant life is experienced through following the Good Shepherd’s guidance.**
  - *Where have we agreed with the lies?*
    - → Guard your heart through Scripture and let His truth lead you.
- **The Good Shepherd’s sacrificial love gives us unity as one flock under His faithful care.**
  - *Do we see other believers as our own Family?*
    - → Rest securely in His love, grow in fellowship with other believers as a family.
- **The Father delights in our obedience as He did in Christ’s.**
  - *Are you reflecting His love through daily surrender?*
    - → Walk in obedience to His word this week, trust in His guidance to experience abundant life.