

JESUS, DOOR TO SALVATION

(Part sixteen – series *The Great I AMs of John's Gospel*)

TEXT: John 10:11-18

INTRODUCTION: After a brief parenthesis, in which Jesus calls attention to Himself as the “door” into the sheepfold of salvation (vv. 7-9), the Savior returns to giving additional truth about Himself as the “good shepherd.” He proves that He is the true Shepherd because He **knows** His sheep, He **loves** His sheep, and He **unites** His sheep. There is only one flock and one shepherd. Jew and Gentile were all to be *“one in Christ Jesus.”*

But in verses 17 and 18 Jesus goes even further in emphasizing the purpose for His entire relation to the sheep – to **die** for them. This certainly struck the ears of His Jewish listeners as very strange. They had no place in their theology for a suffering and dying Messiah. Yet it was needful for the salvation of man that Jesus' death be both **vicarious** and **voluntary**.

OUTLINE: Let us continue to meditate on **how** Jesus gives His life for the sheep.

I. I am the True Shepherd.

(vv. 1-6, 11-16)

A. The One Who **knows** His sheep (vv. 1, 12-14)

B. The One Who is **known by** His sheep (vv. 3b-5)

C. The One Who **gives His life** for the sheep (vv. 11, 15-18)

1. Intelligently (v. 14)

a. Intimately

b. Individually

c. Interchangeably (they reciprocate His love)

2. Impartially (vv. 15-16)

a. Uniting Jew and Gentile (*“one fold and one shepherd”*)

b. Acting with a sense of urgency (*“them also I **must** bring”*)

c. Choosing them before they chose Him (Acts 18:10)

d. Effectually calling them (*“and they shall hear my voice”*)

3. Intentionally (vv. 17-18)

a. Willingly for the sheep (*“no man taketh it from me...”*)

b. Submissively to the Father (*“this commandment have I received of my Father”*)

c. Enabled by the Father (*“I have power to lay it down...and take it again”*)

CONCLUSION: Jesus came to do the Father's will. It was God's will that His Son should die for the sins of a fallen world. Yet Jesus voluntarily, willfully, actively, obeyed the command of His Father. He was not a mindless robot or a fatalist. He struggled with that will in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He joyfully submitted to it. *"For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross"* (Heb. 12:2). Thus, He was empowered by the Father to "take up" His life again – to be resurrected.

The cross demonstrates Jesus' love for us – His sheep. The resurrection proves the Father's love for Jesus. The "good Shepherd" has become the "chief Shepherd" Who will come again for His sheep. Has your heart been melted by that personal love? *"He loved **me** and gave himself **for me**"* (Gal. 2:20).