

HALLOWED BE THY NAME
#9 – “Thura: The Door”
March 27, 2005 – Columbia Church

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . ¹⁴I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. . . ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 10:1-11, 14-15, 17-18 TNIV

Introduction: As we have studied the Biblical names of God together, we have noted that some were ascribed to him by His people, while others He chose for himself. On Good Friday, we considered a name for Jesus first ascribed to him by his followers: the Lamb of God. On this holy Sunday, let’s think together about a name Jesus chose for himself: the Greek word *thura*, translated “door” or “gate.” This name can help us understand the significance of Easter’s empty tomb.

- I. What’s in the Name Thura?
- A. Thura is the name Jesus chose for himself to teach us that we could gain access to God through him.
 - B. Thura means “door,” and refers to the entry to abundant and eternal life that we gain through Jesus.
 - C. Thura is really the name Jesus used to speak of his unique role as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.
 - D. Thura is the doorway to life!

- II. Jesus, Crucified and Arisen, is Our Doorway to God!
 - A. Jesus is the living door through which we enter the sheepfold of God’s grace. (ref. Psalm 23)
 - 1. In Jesus’ day, the “corral” where the flock found shelter was called a sheepfold.
 - 2. The sheepfold was a simple structure with no door, so the shepherd would lie across the entrance to guard it.
 - B. Jesus is the ONLY doorway to salvation and full life, because only he is fully acceptable to God. (v.15)
I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. *John 14:6*
 - C. By laying down his life and taking it up again (cross and resurrection), Jesus lay across the threshold of death and became our doorway to eternal life.
- III. The Door to the Empty Tomb is the Door to Life!
 - A. Thura is the word used to describe the entry to the empty tomb in the earliest resurrection narrative.
When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance [Greek *thura*] of the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. *Mark 16:1-6*
 - B. God’s power literally blew open the door between life and death and opened the entryway to eternity.
 - C. Most of us spend our lives trying to move the stone away from our graves by our own power, when Christ has already become our doorway to freedom.
 - D. Christ died and rose again to give us more than mere existence; he came to give us amazing lives!
I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
John 10:10 The Message

Conclusion: Thura is our doorway into the very presence of God: life abundant and eternal. He is the only way by which we may gain access to heaven, but no other way is necessary, anyway. Christ’s death and resurrection is God’s plan for our salvation, and the doorway to eternity has been blown open.