INTRODUCTION:
1. When one studies the life of Jesus they see that he was indeed the Master Teacher.
   A. He drew attention to what those around him understood, and applied spiritual insights to them.
   1. In Luke 8:4-15 we see where Jesus saw a man sowing seeds and told those about him that the different soils represented differing types of hearts, which received the Word of God in different ways.
   2. On another occasion Jesus stated that the joy that is in heaven, at the repentance of one sinner, is like unto the joy one has when a lost coin is found - Lk. 15:8-10.
   3. And later he stated that God’s love for man is like that of a father whose son had left home, but then returned - Lk. 15:11-32.
   B. It is normally accepted that the best way to communicate with another is to use what is called “word pictures.”
      1. Each of the stories previously cited are clearly such.
2. In John 10:1-10 we find another such “word picture” that I would like for us to consider today.
   A. In this parable Jesus is shown to be the “good shepherd.”
   1. But what is the point that Jesus was getting at here?
      A. We see and understand the illustration, but exactly what is he getting at?

BODY:
1. JESUS IS THE ONE TRUE SHEPHERD
   A. What is easily seen is that Jesus is the only way of salvation - John 10:9.
      1. The Pharisees perceived themselves to be the guardians of the people.
         A. They had asked Jesus if he thought they were blind guides – John 9:40.
      2. In the text of John 10 Jesus answers their question.
         A. He implies that they are “thieves and robbers” and makes it clear that he was the sole means by which man could be restored to a relationship with God.
            1. Later on Jesus clearly shows there is no other way to God but through him - John 14:6.
            2. Even later Peter showed that beyond a shadow of doubt that it was through, and only through Jesus, that man could be saved - Acts 4:12.
   B. Needless to say, what Jesus accused them of did not set well with them.
   C. Today to suggest that there is but one way to salvation is “fighting words.”
      1. We are living in a time of “tolerance,” which, basically, means acceptance of anything and everything as the means of salvation.
      2. Theological liberals cry out for “tolerance,” but forget their plea when someone does not share their view.
         A. Whether we want to admit it or not, the most intolerant people around today are those who are clamoring for tolerance.
3. Let someone dare suggest that they know the truth, even in view of John 8:32, and see what happens.
   A. To do so results in you being branded a religious bigot.
4. Let someone dare stand and say that there is but one way to God - through Jesus - and see what happens.
   A. Our liberal friends will cry out that such a claim means that those who do not share such a view are in error, and “we can’t have that.”
   B. We are told we are being “closed minded.”
      1. But, whether we have ever thought about it or not, truth is always “close minded.”
   C. You may not like it, but it is still the truth.
D. Liberals cry for “equal rights,” for which we concur.
   1. Everyone, equally, has the right to the grace of God - Tit. 2:11.
   2. Everyone, equally, has the right to be saved through Jesus if they will obey - Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9.

2. A SOBERING WARNING FOR THE FLOCK
   A. Christians need to be on their toes because there are thieves and robbers among us - John 10:8.
      1. Because of this, we spend more time trying to keep the saved, saved than trying to reach the lost.
      2. Deception is running rampant within the world and the body of Christ - 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1, 2.
   B. Religious deceivers have converged on the world over the years.
      1. People such as Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science); L. Ron Hubbard (Scientology) David Koresh (Branch Davidian); and Joseph Smith (Mormonism) have led millions away from the Lord and his church.
   C. Today, we are having large numbers of our brethren being deceived by the teachings of liberal brethren.
      1. Others add to the problem by not wanting to call a thief by its name.
      2. It is interesting that Jesus did not have such a problem and, remember, he is our example - Mt. 13:24-30; 1 Pet. 2:21.

3. DEFENDING AGAINST OUR ENEMIES
   A. First, we need to beware of strange voices - John 10:5 a.
      1. When something doesn’t sound right, it most likely isn’t.
         A. We have all heard it said, “If something sounds too good to be true, then it probably isn’t.”
      2. We must exercise caution, and when a teacher teaches that which contradicts the Word of God we need to take a lesson from the sheep…run - John 10:5 b.
   B. Second, we must recognize the Master’s voice - John 10:4, 14, 27.
      1. The only way this can be done is by study of God’s word - John 5:39.
   C. Third, we must trust the Lord as the True Shepherd.
      1. It is not enough to just know who the Shepherd is; you must enter the gate - John 10:9, 27, 28.
CONCLUSION:
1. Truly, Jesus is the good shepherd and we easily see that it is imperative to follow him regardless of what others say.
   A. The question is not, “do we need to follow him?” but “will we do so?”