

Greetings, dear reader, in the Gleaming Grace of Our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ!

In this study we will be looking at the Church as a flock of sheep, with Christ Our Good, Great and Chief Shepherd. In John 10, He declared:

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd and know my sheep and am known by mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:11-12

Notice how Jesus contrasts Himself, as the Good Shepherd, with the wolf (the devil) who but seeks to catch and scatter the sheep and then prey on the isolated ones. Jesus also contrasts Himself with the hireling who does not care about the sheep - Jesus loves us to the extent of dying for us. King David, prefiguring Christ as the Good Shepherd, fought to defend his sheep in his shepherd days at the risk of his own life, killing the bear and the lion, and is mentioned in Ezekiel (written after David's death) as a picture of Christ as the Good Shepherd over His flock:

And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. Ezekiel 34:23

Speaking of the Gentiles, Christ says:

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” John 10:16

We are secure in the fold of Christ:

“My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”. John 10:27-28

It is worth noting, from 1 Peter 5:1-4, that Pastors are shepherds under the Chief Shepherd, their duty being to feed the flock of God and be an example to them, so that when the Chief Shepherd (Christ) appears, they will receive an eternal crown of glory:

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” I Peter 5:1-4

Pastors are to shepherd, not for the sake of money or prestige, but to reflect the love of Christ and care for His flock, as beautifully illustrated in one of my favourite verses, Isaiah 40:11:

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Our Shepherd desires to lead us from barren lands into lush green pasture by water.

“For thus says the Lord Go; Behold, I even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day, that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.” Ezekiel 34:11-12

“I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down” Ezekiel 34:15

“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” I Peter 2:25

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me besides the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou

preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”Psalm 23

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead Our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” Hebrews 13:20-21

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