

## SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

**John 10:11-16; 1 Peter 2:25**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, are called "sheep" and the Lord Jesus Christ is known as their shepherd. Jesus gave the title of "sheep" to His followers and called Himself their "good shepherd." No doubt many Christians have sheep-like characteristics in regard to their behavior: shy, timid, wandering, getting into trouble, needing a leader (shepherd) to care for their needs and carefree, etc.

Throughout the Old Testament it was prophesied that the Messiah would come into the world as a Man and that He would be like a shepherd, buying, seeking, and gathering His sheep.

- *Isaiah 40:11; 49:10*

- *Ezekiel 34:11; 22-24; 37:24*

In the New Testament Jesus is called "The Good Shepherd."

- *John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4*

### I. JESUS CALLED HIMSELF THE "GOOD SHEPHERD"

- *John 10:11, 14; 1 Peter 2:21-25*

1. The Good Shepherd is "The Suffering Shepherd"

- *1 Peter 2:21*

- True believers have been called by the grace and power of God through the Holy Spirit to Christ.

- *Philippians 1:29*

- Believers are called to suffer many things for the Lord's sake as He suffered much for believers.

- If one suffers with Jesus, he/she shall also reign with Him.

- *1 Peter 4:16*

- Believers suffer From Christ, With Christ, For Christ!

- The rule of the believer's life is that he/she is to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, living by:

- His Word, His Example, His Spirit.

- If not for the suffering the Lord Jesus went through, there would be NO salvation for anyone.

- *Romans 3:24-26; John 12:24*

- Believers would never have been freed from the curse of the law. (*Galatians 3:13*)

- Jesus could have never obtained eternal redemption for believers. (*Hebrews 9:12*)

- Jesus could never have saved anyone. (*1 Peter 3:18*)

2. The Good Shepherd is also "The Sinless Shepherd"

- *1 Peter 2:22*

- Had Jesus not been sinless, He could not have done what He did, but since He is without sin, He is the suitable substitute for sinners and is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him.

- No Original Sin! No Personal Sin! No Actual Sin!

- Jesus, being perfectly free of sin was made sin by taking OUR place so that BELIEVERS might take His place for all eternity.

- *Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21*

3. The Good Shepherd is "The Submissive Shepherd"

- *1 Peter 2:23; John 10:16-18*

- Jesus submitted Himself to the will of God before the foundation of the world and voluntarily God's "Servant, Shepherd."

- *Exodus 21:5-6; Psalm 40:6-8; Isaiah 50:5-7*

- Jesus deliberately submitted Himself to God's will at the time of His incarnation.

- *Hebrews 10:5-10*

- Jesus voluntarily submitted Himself to God's will as a Man while here on earth.

- *Luke 2:49; John 12:27-28; 19:30*

4. The Good Shepherd is "The Substitutionary Shepherd"

- **1 Peter 2:24; John 10:11, 14-15**

- "Substitution is the heart of the Gospel.

- **Isaiah 53:4-6; 9-11**

- Jesus Christ is an able Substitute.

- Jesus Christ is a willing Substitute.

- Jesus Christ is a legal Substitute.

- Jesus Christ is a satisfactory Substitute.

- Jesus Christ is an effective Substitute.

5. The Good Shepherd is "The Successful Shepherd"

- **1 Peter 2:25**

- As sheep, it is the nature of believers to stray for all are depraved, sinful creatures.

- They have gone astray as did Adam.

- They have gone astray as soon as they were born, speaking lies, etc.

- They go astray by deliberately choosing to do so as long as they live.

- Sheep cannot find their way back to the flock (home).

- People, as sheep go astray:

- Jesus seeks them out; Jesus finds them; Jesus catches them up and carries them to safety; Unable to return on their own, Jesus brings them to Himself.

## II. UPON HIS RESURRECTION GLORY, JESUS IS INDEED THE GREAT SHEPHERD

- **Hebrews 13:20-21**

1. The Holy Spirit describes the God of glory.

- God is called "The God of peace."

- He is the Author of peace; He made peace; He is the Giver of peace.

2. As resurrected, ascended, exalted, the Lord Jesus is called "The Great Shepherd of The Sheep."

- The Shepherd now sits upon the throne of the universe.

- He is great in His Person - the God-Man!

- He is great in His Position - the Right Hand of the Majesty on High!

- He is great in His Power - Total Sovereignty! Omnipotence!

- He is great in His Possessions - All Fullness!

- He is great in His Provisions - All Grace! All Glory! All Things!

3. Jesus obtained His greatness as Shepherd through "The Blood of the Everlasting Covenant."

- **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

- The blood of the covenant is the precious, sin-atonement blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

- **Hebrews 9:12-17**

- The redemptive purpose of God depended upon on great, ultimate, final thing, the blood of Jesus Christ.

- **Isaiah 53:10-12**

- The effectiveness of Jesus' atonement demanded His resurrection from the dead and that of those who believe in Him.

- Believers' sins were imputed to Jesus Christ.

- Jesus' death satisfied the justice of God for the sins of people and were put upon Him.

- Death now has no more dominion over Him.

- Because Jesus Christ is the believer's substitute, death has no dominion over those who believe in Him.

### **III. WHEN JESUS COMES BACK THE SECOND TIME, IT WILL BE AS THE CHIEF SHEPHERD**

**- 1 Peter 5:4**

1. Pastors are called "little shepherds, under-shepherds," but Jesus Christ is the CHIEF Shepherd.
    - In God's Kingdom, there is only ONE Chief and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ, alone, is the Chief Shepherd.
    - Soon, Christ, the Chief Shepherd shall appear.
    - When Jesus Christ comes, He will raise believer's dead bodies from their graves.
    - The Chief Shepherd will give to all His "sheep" a "crown of glory that fadeth not away."
- Romans 8:28-29; 1 John 3:1-3**

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who redeems those who believe in Him.
2. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who rules from heaven for those who believe in Him.
3. Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd who is coming again to take believers up unto Himself in glory.
4. Salvation is altogether the Lord's Jesus' work, the Chief Shepherd.
  - He agreed to it voluntarily.
  - He accomplished it on the cross.
  - He now applies it (salvation) from His throne.
5. Jesus planned it. He purchased it. He performs it. He preserves it. He perfects it. And He alone shall have all the praise for it.
6. Believers are "sheep" that belong to God and Jesus Christ is their ONLY Shepherd.
  - Believers, trust your Shepherd for all things.