

LESSON 11



JESUS IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

Part 2

Scripture Text: *John 10:7-15, 27, 28*

In the lesson last week we studied about the parable that Jesus gave to the Pharisees. These religious men were so bound by tradition that they could not understand the Words of Jesus. Today we study about, in some detail, the explanation that Jesus gave these ones concerning the parable of Christ the Good Shepherd and His sheep.

MEMORY VERSE: *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*
1 Peter 2:25

Jesus the Door

John 10:7-9 Jesus said, **I am the door of the sheep.** Here Jesus makes it plain that He is the door of which He has been speaking. He is the way into the kingdom of God, the true fold of salvation (John 14:6). He is also the door to keep enemies out. No enemy can overcome Him to get at the sheep to destroy them. He is the only door. All others pretending to be the way to Heaven or to bring the truth **are thieves and robbers.** ONLY by Jesus can anyone be saved from sin and death. When we **enter in** by Him we are on the inside, looking out. We belong and can enjoy and feel the good things there.

As a shepherd leads his flock out to pasture and into rest, so Jesus leads His sheep. He knows what His people need and has placed it in His Word. He knows when they need rest or revival or encouragement. He gives it through His Word sent to us by the undershepherd, the pastor. Jesus sees our wounds and binds and heals them. He brings comfort to broken hearts. Christ and the door into the kingdom are one and the same. There are not two entrances. "Joining" is climbing up another way. It puts one into a denominational fold but not the fold of Christ. One cannot "join" the fold of Christ; all must enter by the door, Jesus Christ. One does not enter full-grown but healthy and ready to grow.

Life and Death

John 10:10-11 Jesus contrasted Himself with the devil and his agents. The devil promises to give much, but he has nothing to give. His only intention is to take from us all that is good, **to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.** Jesus came to give, not to take. **I am come that they might have life . . . more abundantly.** Entering by Jesus gives life to the soul. He gives life, full and rich. Because He loves them, He proves Himself a Good Shepherd; He **giveth his life for the sheep.** The sheep are His own; His object is their good. All He asks of them is due honor, thanks, and praise.

False Shepherds

John 10:12-13 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd . . . leaveth the sheep, and fleeth . . . wolf . . . scattereth the sheep. An agent of Satan will hire out to pastor a church or teach in a school or write a

book, but he does it for the money, not for the good of the sheep. The sheep are not his; their welfare is nothing to him. When danger or need comes along he offers no help. He has none to give. **Because he is an hireling**—he is into the work only as a means of livelihood, **the hireling fleeth**—he runs away and leaves the sheep to be killed and scattered.

The True Shepherd

John 10:14-15 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep. He knows who they are. He knows all about each one. He knows their desires, weaknesses, and needs. He knows and understands and cares. The fact that Jesus knows His sheep is of vital value in many ways. One important way concerns the boundary line of the Church of God, the line that separates between those who are saved and those who are not. Christ keeps the record. Need we another? No! Men draw lines based upon many things. **Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his** (2 Timothy 2:19). **And am known of mine.** This completes the re-warding association. To know Him is to love Him, to possess Him, and to have eternal life. When one knows Jesus there will be no mistaking the voice of any other to lead him astray.

Can One Leave the Fold?

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice . . . they follow me. This is an amazing statement to one who has been taught that we cannot be free from sin in this life. Sinners are not saints! Saints do not sin! Jesus says, **they follow me.**

I give unto them eternal life. We sing the song: "We possess it right here when He saves from all sin, and 'twill last while the ages shall roll." **Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** No enemy—no anything—is strong enough to snatch a saint from the flock of the all-powerful Jesus or His Father. The only one who can remove a saint from the hand of Christ is oneself. The choice is left to us, individually.

It is widely taught that one once saved is always saved, that nothing he can do can bring about the loss of salvation once received. One cannot be saved from sin and be a sinner at the same time. A sheep cannot be in the fold and outside the fold at the same time (1 John 3:8-10). Christ keeps secure all who remain with Him, but He restrains no one by force. Any who choose to depart from Him do so by crossing the line of safety into the realm of sin and Satan. (Read 2 Peter 2:20-21.) So, one can fall, but what a sad day it is for that one.

JUST A THOUGHT

**"Error often rides to its deadly work on
the back of truth."**

– Spurgeon

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