

Subject: *Christ Is the Good Shepherd – Part 2*

Scripture: *John 10:11-30*

In these days when things are so uncertain and unstable, we need to be reminded of the assurance and stability we have in Christ. All the names and titles of Christ in the Bible are there to comfort and encourage us: He is the Amen, the Alpha and Omega, the Advocate, the Author and Finisher of faith, the Bread of Life, the Cornerstone, the Counselor, the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, the Forerunner, the Great High Priest, the Head of the church, the Holy One of God, the I AM, Immanuel, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord of glory, the Mediator, the Messenger of the covenant, the Messiah, the Mighty God, the Bright and Morning Star, the Only Begotten of the Father, our Passover, the Prince of Life, the Prince of Peace, The Root of David, the Savior, the Servant, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the Word of God. What could be more reassuring and comforting to our soul? One of these titles is the Good Shepherd.

1. He cautions His sheep

He refers to the false religious leaders as thieves, robbers, strangers, and hirelings. They took advantage of the people because they didn't love God or His sheep.

2. He cares for His sheep

In contrast to the false shepherds, He truly loves and cares for them. He proves His love by what He does for them.

3. He is the door of His sheep

Verses 7, 9 – He is the way into the sheep fold and the way out to the pasture. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). In the book of Acts the first generation of Christians were called “people of the Way.” The Good Shepherd provides security, salvation, and satisfaction for the sheep. He came to give life that is eternal and abundant.

4. He gives His own life for His sheep

Verses 11, 15, 17-18 – “I lay down my life for the sheep” (found only in the writings of John). His death was voluntary and sacrificial. He died for the sheep. He not only gives life to his sheep. He gives his own life for the sheep.

John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

5. He knows His sheep

Verse 14 (and vs. 3, “his own sheep” = certain ones). The word “know” means to love and speaks of the relationship He has with the sheep.

6. He calls and leads His sheep

Verses 3, 4, 27 – The sheep know His voice and they follow Him.

7. He unites His sheep

Vs. 16 – Christ calls both Jews and Gentiles into the same fold. There is one flock and one shepherd. This is more than numerical unity; it is true spiritual unity.

***John 17:20-21**²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

8. He provides eternal security for His sheep

You can't find a stronger text on the eternal security of believers than verses 28-29.

A statement of fact – *I give unto them eternal life*

Two promises – *they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*

A supporting statement – *My Father...no man is able to pluck...out of my Father's hand.*

A final supporting statement – *I and my Father are one.* They are two different persons within the Trinity, but they are one in purpose. The Bible teaches there are three persons in the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but they are always one in purpose. They work together in creation and redemption.

We see the character and blessings of the Good Shepherd. Now what are the marks of His sheep?

- 1) The sheep belong to the Good Shepherd (“his own sheep...my sheep”) – We see two distinct groups in this John 10 – those who are His sheep and those who are not.
- 2) They hear and recognize His voice (and they reject the voice of any false shepherd)
- 3) They obey Him and follow wherever He leads
- 4) They enter the sheep fold by faith in the Good Shepherd
- 5) They are saved and satisfied
- 6) They all belong to the one sheep fold
- 7) They have eternal life and will never perish
- 8) They are safe in the hands of the shepherd and the Heavenly Father