

The Shepherd and Bishop Of Our Souls

I Peter 2:21-25

Introduction:

- Jesus is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls
- There are many false shepherds today- wolves in sheep's clothing
- Read Ezekiel 34:1-4, 23-24, and you will see that God has always been opposed to these self-serving religious leaders
- We are thankful for good under-shepherds, but praise God Jesus our True Shepherd!

I. THE SHEPHERD SUFFERED V. 21-23

- a. Consider our shepherds example- Example in the Greek- lit., "an under-writing" (from hupographo, "to write under, to trace letters" for copying by scholars- illustr young children learning to write the letters of the alphabet
- b. J. Vernon McGee notes in his commentary that Christ has two sufferings:
 - i. Suffering for righteousness' sake
 - ii. Suffering for the sins of the world- this suffering is not an example for us, but is to be believed and accepted for salvation! Illustr- Some Filipino Catholics in Pampanga
- c. Liberal theologians' teach a social gospel (Christ's life and public ministry)
- d. Many people make the mistake of attempting to follow Christ as their example, without first trusting Him as their Savior.
- e. The context is clear- the example of his suffering for righteousness sake
- f. Jesus is our example as someone who endured punishment unjustly. He suffered betrayal, ridicule and scorn. He was misunderstood and He was reviled
 - i. When He was reviled Jesus did not revile in return, but in His sufferings He committed everything to God, the righteous Judge of the Universe- v.

- ii. We can't always keep others from lying about us, but we can live in such a way that what is said is proven untrue
- iii. Romans 12:19- Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- g. God's will for our lives **includes** suffering- v. 19-20

II. THE SHEPHERD SEEKS- V. 24-25

- a. See Isaiah 53:3-7
- b. Religion is all about man trying to seek God; the Gospel is all about God seeking after man
- c. John 10:11-15
- d. Jesus' parable of the lost sheep- Luke 15:1-7
- e. The foolishness of sheep wandering astray (broken leg, left until starvation)
- f. Come Thou Fount:

Jesus sought me when a stranger
 Wandering from the fold of God
 He, to rescue me from danger
 Interposed His precious blood
 O to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be
 Let that grace now, like a fetter
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
 Prone to leave the God I love
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it
 Seal it for Thy courts above

- g. He is our defender, and overseer

III. THE SHEPHERD SAVES- V. 24

- a. How? By suffering for the sins of the world
- b. Christ's substitutionary death

- i. According to God's predetermined plan- 1:2, 20
 - ii. On the tree- literally the wood of the cross
 - iii. Substitutionary- 3:18 The shepherd for the sheep
 - iv. Sacrificial- v. 21- The shepherd as a spotless lamb
 - v. Redemptive- 1:18-19
 - vi. Voluntary- John 10:11, 17-18
 - vii. Atonement- sacrifice leading to the removal of sin and guilt- Hebrews 9:22
- c. These facts are vital to our salvation! Any gospel or way of salvation that leaves out Christ's substitutionary death is a false gospel!
- d. Why are we saved?
 - i. Dead to sin...live unto righteousness- The word "sins" is in the dative case, and indicates the relationship that has been terminated. Romans 6:2 says we "are dead to sin."
 - ii. Peter reminds us that when Jesus died on the cross, we also died. Our lives should permanently be changed by our identification with Jesus on the cross.
- e. We have died to sins in the sense that our debt of sin and guilt was paid by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. When we died to sins with Jesus on the cross, it means that He paid our debts. We do not trouble ourselves over debts that are paid. Now there is no condemnation! (Romans 12:1)
- f. By his stripes ye are healed- Some Pentecostals teach that there is physical healing in the atonement. The biblical understanding is that there is most definitely spiritual healing for every believer. But, it is not always God's will to physically heal.

Conclusion:

- The Lord Jesus Christ is the "Shepherd and Bishop" of our souls (2:25).
- Pastors are "under-shepherds." Christ is the "chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4).

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd
- He said in John 10:27-29, "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. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."
- Is the Lord Jesus Christ your "good shepherd"? Is He your Saviour?