

# THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

## DO WE NEED LED TO GREENER PASTURES?

*"For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand."*

~ Psalm 95:7

### 1. Sheep and Shepherd

- a. This picture applied to the church is centuries old... prepare to swim upstream.
- b. Who are the people of Ps 95:7? Is the Lord our Shepherd (Ps 23)? Do you hear his voice?
- c. Sheep are dumb/cannot be trained; weak/defenseless; need led to food; get lost; fearful
- d. Shepherds must teach/lead/guide/feed; protect & defend; gather those that are scattered
  - i. What sheep *can* do is hear and follow the master's voice and flock together
  - ii. This may be spiritual, but is misapplied when taken as doctrine for the church

### 2. The Sheep of Israel (Lost and Found)

- a. Israel was a nation of shepherds and sheep – Gen 46:32; 47:3; Ps 100:3
- b. Israel born when God led his sheep by the hand of Moses – Ps 77:20, 78:52; Exo 4:22
- c. Israel was promised a land that they were led to (Pastures/water, etc).
- d. Israel had physical protection by God's rod and staff in the wilderness.
- e. Jesus was sent to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" – Matt 10:6; Matt 15:24
- f. Lost sheep are still sheep. Lost Israel were still people of a promise, unlike today – 2Co 4:3

### 3. The Shepherd of Israel (Good and Bad)

- a. Moses prayed for a shepherd for the sheep of Israel – Num 27:16-17
- b. Good shepherds lead/feed; bad shepherds destroy/ scatter the flock – Ex 2:17; Jer 23:1-6
- c. All of Ezekiel 34 speaks of the need for a good shepherd over Israel – Eze 34:30-31
- d. Jesus identifies as the good shepherd of his "little flock" – Luke 12:32; John 10
- e. John the Baptist is the porter preparing the way for the Lord with water baptism
- f. "other sheep" referring to Israel and Judah – John 11:52; "one shepherd" - Eze 37:16-24

### 4. We are Not Sheep, but Conquerors!

- a. Real trouble, pain, suffering, hurt happens; grace does not prevent it - Romans 8:35
- b. It is our response to perils that change us from victims to victors
- c. The only who that separates from the love of Christ is you when sound doctrine is ignored
- d. Rom 8:36 = Ps 44:22 which is the bleat of sheep in bad circumstances – Ps 44:13-16, 23
- e. Helpless sheep led to slaughter cry out for help to stop the perils, but we have more...
- f. "Nay" (No) - Rom 8:37 – We have strength in weakness – 2 Cor 4:9; 2 Cor 12:9-10
- g. God's grace doesn't remove us from peril, but strengthens us through it -Phi 4:13, Ep 6:10
- h. The power of God's grace in Christ strengthens us to be more than conquerors – Ro 8:38
- i. We are not weak, dumb, lost, scattered, slaughtered sheep...
- j. We are builders, wrestlers, soldiers, husbandmen, victors, conquerors, ambassadors
  - i. We are earthly members of the risen Body of Christ! – 2 Tim 2:1-7