

JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Old Testament times, the sons of Israel were shepherds, but there is a spiritual flock today (Gen. 47.3; 1 Pet. 5.2; Acts 20.28)
2. Who is the shepherd of the flock? (Ps. 23.1; John 10.11)
3. What does it mean to have Jesus as our Shepherd?

I. THE CULTURAL AND TEXTUAL SETTING

- A. The events that led to the statements of Jesus.
 1. In the temple, Jesus was presented with a woman caught in the very act of adultery. (John 8.2,7,12,13,20)
 2. Jesus found Himself entangled in a heated discussion with the Jews. (John 8.59)
 3. In John 9, a man is cast out of the temple after being healed by Jesus of blindness. (John 9.1-3,15,18,34,35)
- B. In context, Jesus is addressing both His disciples and the religious confrontational leaders.
 1. Jesus addressed His disciples. (John 9.2)
 2. Jesus addressed the Pharisees. (John 9.16,40)

II. TWO STATEMENTS

- A. **JOHN 10.7:** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.”* In what way is Jesus the door?
 1. As the door, Jesus provides access to salvation. (John 10.8,9; Acts 4.12; John 14.6)
 2. As the door, Jesus protects the sheep from *“thieves and robbers”* (John 10.10).
 3. This gives us peace of mind. (Rom. 5.1,2)
- B. **JOHN 10.11:** *“I am the good shepherd”*
 1. As the good shepherd, Jesus gives His life. (John 10.11)
 2. As the good shepherd, Jesus cares. (John 10.12,13)
 3. As the good shepherd, Jesus knows His sheep. (John 10.14)

CONCLUSION: Do you know the Shepherd? (Heb. 13.20)

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NOVEMBER 19, 2023

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

November 19, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

NEVER BEEN UNLOVED

Love is one of those things that defies definition. The dictionary says that love is “a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.” The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia defines it as “an earnest and anxious desire for and an active and beneficent interest in the well-being of the one loved.” The Bible simply defines it like this: *“God is love”* (1 John 4.8). Whatever love is, it is consistent with the character and nature of God. Any definition of love which does not harmonize with the character of God cannot be accurate.

Because God is love, there is not a single person that has or will ever live whom God does not love. He demonstrated it by sending His Son to die on behalf of sinful man (John 3.16). You and I have been many things. We have been unworthy (1 Cor. 15.9). We have been undone (Isa. 6.5). We have been unclean (Eph. 5.5). We have been unkind (Eph. 4.32). We have been undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, and unmerciful (Rom. 1.31). We have been a lot of things, but we have never been unloved. **1 JOHN 4.10:** *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

Is there anything we can do to repay God for His overabundant and sacrificial display of love? No! But we can live a lifetime of love by our faith and obedience. CLP

I AM THANKFUL FOR GRACE 2 CORINTHIANS 4:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Nine times we will read the word “thanksgiving” in the New Testament. (1 Tim. 4.3,4; Phil. 4.6; 2 Cor. 9.11,12; Col. 4.2)
2. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.15:** “*grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.*”
3. We are to always be thankful for the grace of God.

I. IDENTIFIED

- A. The grace of God gives life.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 3.6:** “*The Spirit gives life*”
 2. There is glory in the Old Testament, but it is a covenant of death. (2 Cor. 3.6,7,9; cf. Rom. 7.10)
 3. The New Testament is life. (2 Cor. 3.9,10; cf. Eph. 2.1)
- B. The grace of God gives hope.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 3.12:** “*since we have such hope*”
 2. Hope is realized in Jesus, but many of the Jews would not accept Jesus. (2 Cor. 3.12-18; cf. 1 Tim. 1.1)
 3. We have hope because grace makes us free. (2 Cor. 3.17)
- C. The grace of God give light. (2 Cor. 4.4,6; cf. John 12.35)

II. EXEMPLIFIED

- A. Paul valued the grace of God.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.7:** “*But we have this treasure*”
 2. Every day Paul risked his life to bring the knowledge of the grace of God to the lost. (2 Cor. 4.13,14)
- B. Paul believed in the grace of God.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.13,14:** “*we also believe and therefore speak.*” (cf. Ps. 116.10)
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.15:** Sharing the message of grace caused “*thanksgivings to abound toward God*”
 3. Paul expressed thanksgiving for grace. (1 Tim. 1.12)

III. APPLIED

- A. Grace is a gift.
 1. Salvation is not earned. (Eph. 2.8)
 2. Not a works based system! (Eph. 2.9)
- B. Grace saves us. (Rom. 5.9; Mark 9.43)

CONCLUSION: Are you thankful for grace? (Matt. 16.26)

THANKSGIVING BY SHARING

It was a severe famine. A prophet named Agabus showed that “*there was going to be a great famine throughout the world*” (Acts 11.28). As a result, the brethren in Judea suffered great need. The apostles went to work collecting help from various congregations (Acts 11.29). We can read about detailed instructions given to the church in Corinth. The Corinthian brethren agreed to help these needy saints in Judea. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9.10-15 about the blessings that flowed from their generosity. From this passage, consider three thoughts relative to thanksgiving.

First, God has blessed us with material prosperity. In 2 Corinthians 9.10, Paul refers to God “*who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food.*” We tend to focus our attention on the rich spiritual blessings in Christ – and we should (Col. 3.2). But we should also remember that “*every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights*” (James 1.17). Every blessing we enjoy both spiritually and materially comes from God. With the holidays upon us, we can be thankful to God “*who gives us richly all things to enjoy*” (1 Tim. 6.17).

Second, God expects us to share this material prosperity with those in need. Paul goes on to write in verse 11 that we are “*enriched in everything for all liberality*” (2 Cor. 9.11). God has blessed us materially so we can share what we have liberally. To the Ephesians, Paul expressed a similar thought. Those who work, do so “*that he may have something to give him who has need*” (Eph. 4.28). To whom are we to help? Paul identifies the needy in verse 13 where he writes about “*their liberal sharing with them and all men*” (2 Cor. 9.13). Our giving should never be limited to just our brethren. If there is an opportunity to help people outside of the church, we are just as obligated to them as one another.

Third, when we share our prosperity with those in need, it causes those who have been helped to abound in thanksgivings. In verse 12, Paul says that their sharing with the needy saints, “*not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God*” (2 Cor. 9.12). Notice that thanksgivings are not given to us who share with them. Thanksgivings are given to God. By sharing our prosperity with those in need, we are showing them the heart of God and causing God to be glorified (Matt. 5.16).

Thanksgiving is a day to remind us of how much God has blessed our lives. Let’s also remember to share so that the needs of others will be met and God will be glorified through their thanksgivings. CLP