



Talmid תלמיד a Hebrew word that means "a true disciple who desires to be what the Rabbi Jesus" is."

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6 (NIV)

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STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD, A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED, RIGHTLY  
DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

## THE REVELATION OF JESUS, THE SHEPHERD OF LIFE

John 10:1-42  
Pastor Eddie Idefonso

### A. The Shepherd and His Sheep: False vs. True Teachers, John 10:1-6

**(John 10:1-6) Introduction:** this passage begins the great revelation of Jesus as the Shepherd of Life. Jesus is pictured as the only true Shepherd of the sheep.

The sheepfold (v.1).

The false shepherd (v.1).

The true shepherd (v.2-3).

The sheep (v.4-5).

The parable not understood (v.6).

### 1. (John 10:1) Sheepfold—Salva- tion, Position—Security: the sheepfold.

Jesus begins the parable with the solemn "verily, verily." What He had to say was of critical importance.

There is a sheepfold, a place where all the sheep are kept. The sheepfold pictures the place of acceptance by God, or the place of safety and security in God's presence (*see Deeper Study # 1, Kingdom of God—Matthew 19:23-24 see page # 24 for more discussion*). It is the *position* of salvation, of spiritual sight that comes by believing Jesus to be Son of God (**John 9:36-38**). It is the *position* of being accepted by God because a man approaches God "in the

name of His Son, Jesus Christ." The sheepfold symbolizes the place where the sheep (believers) are kept.

**The sheep are kept.....**

1. in the church in the Kingdom of God
2. in heaven in the place of acceptance
3. in salvation in spiritual deliverance
4. in spiritual sight from darkness
5. in eternal life in the position of faith

**Now note:** the whole parable has to do with a false shepherd and the true shepherd. Both go after the sheep. The true shepherd is Christ and the false shepherds are those who opposed Christ, the world's religionists—the false teachers—who so blindly stood against His claim to be "the Light of the world" (**John 8:12; John 9:5; John 9:40**).

### 2. (John 10:1) Shepherds, False— False Teachers: the false shepherd.

**Note three points.**

1. The sheepfold can be entered. There is a door into the sheepfold—an entrance, a way to get in—and the door is the only *acceptable* way to enter.

2. Some shepherds climb into the sheepfold **from "some other way" (*allachothēn*)**.  
The word *from* is important. It indicates origin.

**The false shepherd comes from and originates from.....**

1. some other direction
2. some other way
3. some other position
4. some other source
5. some other road

3. Note also the terms "thief" (*kleptēs*) and "robber" (*leistes*). The very same words were used to describe Judas (a thief) and Barabbas (a robber). It is an awful thing for a person to be put into the same class as Judas and Barabbas, two who were as opposite from Christ as any men could be.

**The false shepherd is.....**

*a thief*: a seducer and a deceiver, a crafty and dishonest man, a man who will use any means to get into the sheepfold and steal the sheep.

*a robber*: a man who will use violence and cruelty and will destroy and devour if necessary to get into the sheepfold.

God has much to say to false shepherds.  
(See *Deeper Study # 2, 1 Tim. 6:3-5* see page # 28 for more discussion); (See *Deeper Study # 3, Titus 1:10-16*; see page # 35 for more discussion).

"All ye beasts [false shepherds] of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant" (*Isaiah 56:9-12*).

"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the

**LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD" (*Jeremiah 23:1-2*; cp. *Jeremiah 25:34-38*).**

"My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting-place" (*Jeremiah 50:6*).

"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them" (*Ezekiel 34:1-6*; cp. *Ezekiel 34:7-31*).

### **3. (John 10:2-3) Shepherd: the true shepherd.**

**Note four points.**

1. The shepherd who enters the appointed door is the true shepherd (Jesus Christ). He knows where the door is and the way into the sheepfold. Therefore, He uses the door.

There is no reason for Him not to use it, no reason for Him to climb in any other way.

His purpose is not to steal some sheep from the Owner (God) and start a flock of His own. Such a thought is the



farthest thing from His mind. His thoughts are focused upon the sheep and the Owner's will.

His purpose is to be the Shepherd of the Owner (God), to serve Him and to do His will.

Therefore, the Shepherd enters the sheepfold by the door. The door was made for Him and the sheep to enter; therefore, He uses it.

2. The Shepherd is known by the Porter (God or the Holy Spirit). This point is critical. The Holy Spirit (as God) is the One who opens the door into the sheepfold.

The One who comes to the door is known by the Porter; He is known to be the Shepherd.

**The Shepherd therefore.....**  
is not afraid to face the Porter.  
has been appointed to use the door.  
has the authority and the right to enter.

**"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:15).**

3. The Shepherd knows the sheep; He knows each one by name. This is said to have been a fact among shepherds and their sheep in Jesus' day. Shepherds actually knew each sheep individually, even in large herds. The fact is certainly true with Christ and His sheep. The words "**His own**" (*sidia*) mean He calls His own, not as a whole, not as a herd, but as individuals. The Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, knows each of His sheep by name.

**"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:14).**

**"But if any man love God, the same is known of him" (1 Cor. 8:3).**

**"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal; The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Tim. 2:19).**

**"Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have**

**called thee by thy name; thou art mine" (Isaiah 43:1).**

4. The Shepherd leads and shepherds the sheep. He loves them as His own; therefore He must lead them to the green pastures and still waters. He must see that they are nourished and protected and given the very best care possible. (*See Deeper Study # 4, Mark 6:34 see page # 44 for more discussion, what happens to sheep without a Shepherd.*)

a. He feeds the sheep even if He has to gather them in His arms and carry them to the feasting pasture.

**"He shall feed the flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" (Isaiah 40:11).**

b. He guides the sheep to the pasture and away from the rough places and precipices.

**"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:1-4).**

c. He seeks and saves the sheep who get lost.

**"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?" (Matthew 18:11-12).**

**"I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick" (Ezekiel 34:16).**

d. He protects the sheep. He even sacrifices His life for the sheep.



**"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).**

**"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant" (Hebrews 13:20).**

e. He restores the sheep who go astray and returns them to the sheepfold.

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

f. He rewards the sheep for obedience and faithfulness.

**"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5:4).**

g. He shall keep the sheep separate from the goats.

**"And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:32-33).**

#### **4. (John 10:4-5) Sheep— Disciples— Believers: the sheep are disciples or believers of the Lord.**

##### **Note three points.**

1. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice. They know both His sound and His words.

The sound of His voice is not uncertain and unclear, not weak and frail, not quivering and indecisive. It is clear, strong, sure, and decisive.

The Words of His voice are words of care and tenderness, of warning and safety, of truth and security. **Thought:** Believers trust the voice, the Word of Christ, because they know His voice.

**"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him" (John 3:34).**

**"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).**

**"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).**

**"Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death" (John 8:51).**

**"Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37).**

**"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (1 Thes. 2:13).**

**"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16).**

**"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3).**

**"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).**

2. The sheep follow the Shepherd.

**Note** He goes before them to lead the way. He does not drive them like cattle. He leads in order to pick out the safe and secure way to the pasture. He leads to show the sheep that the road is clear and safe. The sheep know



this, so they follow the Shepherd, knowing they are perfectly safe and secure following the path He has laid out before them. (**John 14:6**)

- a. They follow Him because He saves them and gives them life.

**"I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:15).**

**"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" (John 10:27-28).**

**"And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people" (Zech. 9:16).**

- b. They follow Him because they are the sheep of His pasture.

**"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3).**

- c. They follow Him because they wish to give Him praise forever.

**"But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob" (Psalm 75:9).**

- d. They follow Him because they are sheep in the midst of wolves.

**"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29).**

- e. They follow Him because He assures them and delivers them from fear.

**"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).**

- f. They follow Him because they have learned

that without Him they are scattered and lost.

**"I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered" (Mark 14:27; cp. Matthew 26:31).**

- g. They follow Him because He takes care of all their wants.

**"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).**

3. The sheep flee from strange voices.

**Note two things.**

a. They *will not (ou me)* follow a stranger. This is a double negative. They will not, in any case, follow a stranger.

b. They flee from the strange voice. They do not know a stranger's voice. Its sound and words are different.

**Thought: The strange voice can be the voice of.....**

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. false religion   | humanism    |
| 2. false science    | materialism |
| 3. false psychology | worldliness |
| 4. false philosophy | fame        |

**5. (John 10:6) Jesus Christ, Rejection—Natural Man: the parable was not understood.**

The spiritual truth was beyond the religionists, the false teachers. They could not grasp the truth with their natural minds. They could not see themselves as false shepherds, and they could not see Jesus as the true Shepherd. Natural man rebels against being called *false* and against Christ being the *only Shepherd* of the sheep.

**"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Acts 28:27).**

**"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7).**

**Continued in next edition.....**





## EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

### STUDY 2

#### THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH JERUSALEM TO ANTIOCH

*Continued from last edition.....*

### RENEWED PERSECUTION

**The Martyrdom of James (Acts 12:1, 2)**—The narrative now turns back to the state of the mother church. When the disciples were having such success in Antioch there was great trouble in Jerusalem.

The Jews, some time after the death of the Emperor Caligula in 41 A.D., turned their attention again to the rapidly increasing power of the Christian church. Herod Agrippa I—grandson of Herod the Great—had helped Claudius, the successor of Caligula, to become emperor. In return Herod Agrippa was made king by Claudius and had many favors showered upon him. Herod lived in Jerusalem and curried favor with the Jews in every way. It is this Herod who, desiring to please the Jews, put forth “his hands to afflict certain of the church and killed James, the brother of John, with the sword.” This took place in the spring of the year 44 A.D. We can well imagine the stir that this

act aroused in the Christian community, who had for some years enjoyed immunity from persecution.

**The Imprisonment of Peter (Acts 12:3–19)**—Herod Agrippa I evidently was following a shrewd plan to strike at the Christian leaders, first, and to put them out of the way. When he saw that the execution of James pleased the Jews he proceeded to take Peter also and put him in prison. To make sure of him he was bound with two chains to two soldiers, one on either side. The intention was to have him executed after Easter. This was a crisis in the affairs of the church and prayer was made unceasing for the release of Peter. Prayer was the only weapon which could be used and so effective was it that Peter was released to the great joy of the disciples.

**The Death of the Persecutor, Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:20–23)**—Within about a month after the death of James, the king went to a magnificent festival, held in Honour of the Roman Emperor at Cæsarea. There before a vast throng he appeared “in all the pride of state in robes inwrought with silver thread. The time chosen was daybreak so that the rising sun shining on this grand mantle lighted it into dazzling splendor.” When Herod made an oration and the people shouted, “It is the voice of a god and not of a man” he did not rebuke them but drank in the shallow flattery. Luke tells us that he was smitten, because he gave not God the glory, by the angel of the Lord, was eaten of worms and died.

### The Result of the Persecu-

tion—“The word of God grew and multiplied” (Acts 12:24). It is the same story repeated over and over again; attacks upon the church only cause it to increase in numbers and power.

### QUESTIONS

- Jerusalem to Antioch; what were the important steps from the first to the second great centre of Christianity?
- What can be said of the scattering abroad of the members of the Jerusalem church?
- The organization of the church in Samaria?
- The mission to Ethiopia?
- The conversion of Saul?
- Peaceful times?
- The vision of Peter?
- What can be said of the work in Antioch?
- The importance of this city?
- The founding of the church?
- The visit of Barnabas?
- The bringing in of Paul?
- The new name?
- The number of Christians?
- What can be said of the renewed persecution?
- The martyrdom of James?
- The imprisonment of Peter?
- The death of the persecutor?
- The result of the persecution?

