



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

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Continued from last edition...

### 1. (John 10:11-13) Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd— Hireling— False Teachers— Irresponsible Teachers: the meaning of "Good Shepherd."

There are **two reasons** why Jesus is called the Good Shepherd.

1. Jesus is called the “*Good Shepherd*” because He gave and sacrificed His life *for the sheep*.

2. Jesus is called the “**Good Shepherd**” because He is not a hired or employed shepherd. Jesus is the Shepherd by birth. He was born to be the Shepherd with all the Shepherd's rights. The sheep are His and He is the sheep's. The “**hired shepherd**” was just a man passing through who was temporary help. He was a man hired to look after the sheep until the real shepherd came along. He was not the true, permanent shepherd. He was a false, unfaithful, and irresponsible shepherd.

**His interest was not a calling, but .....**

- a job and profession
- position and prestige
- authority and esteem

- money and comfort
- acceptance and recognition

The false, unfaithful, and irresponsible shepherd has little if any sense of responsibility for the sheep. He seeks to benefit self, not the sheep.

- He is a shepherd for what he can get out of it, not to serve and care for the sheep.
- His primary interest is not the sheep but job security: wages and benefits, position and prestige, money and comfort.
- He values himself much more than the sheep.
- He seeks His own things and not the things of others (**1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:3-4**).
- He has no *natural* care for the state of the sheep (**Phil. 2:20**).
- He has no interest in seeking the lost sheep, lest his life be threatened “**in the wilderness**” (**Luke 15:4**).

Note that Jesus says three significant things about the “**hired or employed**” shepherd.

1. The irresponsible shepherd flees when he sees danger (the wolf). He seeks to save himself and to protect his own security and position, even if it means forsaking the sheep and leaving them exposed to the danger.
2. The irresponsible shepherd causes the sheep to be caught in the danger and in the error.
  - a. Some of the sheep are ravaged and eaten by the dangerous wolf. The wolf is any thing or any power that seeks to destroy the sheep, such as worldliness, false teaching, and carnal men.
  - b. The remaining sheep are scattered throughout the wilderness of the world and lost to the Owner (God).
3. The irresponsible shepherd lacks genuine care for the sheep. He is not involved and concerned with the fate and eternal welfare of the sheep.

## DEEPER STUDY #7 Jesus Christ, Death

**(John 10:11) Jesus Christ, Death:** the word "for" (*huper*) is a simple word with profound meaning when used with the death of Christ. It proclaims the most wonderful truth known to man. **Note this striking truth:** it does *not mean* that Christ died only as an example for us, showing us how we should be willing to die for the truth or for some great cause. What it means is that Christ died *in our place, in our stead, in our room, as our substitute*. This meaning is unquestionably clear.

1. The idea of sacrifice to the Jewish and pagan mind of that day was the idea of a life given in another's place. It was *a substitutionary sacrifice*.
2. The idea of sacrifice is often in the very context of the words, "**Christ gave Himself for us**" ([Ephes. 5:2](#)).

**"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51).**

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

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

**"He prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation" (John 11:51).**

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

**"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth" (John 17:19).**

## **2. (John 10:14-16) Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd: the proof that Jesus is the "Good Shepherd."**

### **There are four proofs.**

1. Jesus knows His sheep, and they know Him. There is an intimate knowledge between Jesus and His sheep.

- a. He knows them, their lives, their being, their all. **He knows them.....**
  - by name, individually and personally.
  - in all their joy and blessings.
  - in all their trials and sorrows.
  - in all their wanderings and stumblings.
  - in all their need and lack.

He keeps His mind upon them, looking after them by His Spirit and caring for them through intercession as well as by companionship. This is proof that He is the "Good Shepherd" of the sheep.

**"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out" (John 10:3).**

**"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).

b. The sheep know Him, His life, His being, His all.

**They know Him, believing and trusting.....**

1. His love and care.
2. His mind and Word.
3. His companionship and leadership.
4. His experience and knowledge.
5. His destiny and pasture (heaven).

The fact that the sheep know Him so well is clear proof that Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" of their lives.

**"Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (John 4:42).**

**"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice" (John 10:4).**

**"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).**

**"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).**

**"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:7-8).**

**"For the which cause I also suffer these**

**things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).**

**"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).**

**"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).**

2. Jesus knows the Father, the Owner of the sheep. The question naturally arises, how well does He know Him? One thing is of critical importance. When Jesus claims to know the Father, He does not mean that He knows God in the same sense as other men know Him. Note His exact words:

**"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father" (John 10:15).**

How well does God know any man? However well God knows Jesus, that is how well Jesus knows God. That is what Jesus is claiming. God, of course, knows every man perfectly, knows everything there is to know about a person. Therefore, Jesus knows the Father perfectly, just as God knows everything about Him. Jesus and "the Father are one" (John 10:30). There is a perfect, intimate knowledge and relationship between them.

This is exactly what Jesus was claiming. He was claiming to be "*the Good Shepherd*," the very One sent by God to be the Good Shepherd of the sheep. The proof is that He knows the Father even (as well) as the Father knows Him.

**"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him" (Matthew 11:27).**

**"But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me" (John 7:29).**

"Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying" (John 8:55).

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

"O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me" (John 17:25).

3. Jesus will die for the sheep. He was the "Good Shepherd," not a bad shepherd; therefore, He would face the enemy of the sheep. He would not flee from His calling and purpose. He would stand and fight the enemy as the Good Shepherd was sent to do. Note two striking facts.

a. Jesus did not say that He would fight and protect the sheep. He said He would die for the sheep—definitely die. He knew that death awaited Him, that His purpose was to die for them.

b. Jesus dropped the imagery of the shepherd in this statement. He no longer said, "the good shepherd giveth His life" (John 10:11); He now said "I lay down my life."

4. Jesus worked to enlarge the fold. Note several facts.

a. The "other sheep" was a reference to worldwide evangelism. It referred to all believers who were not standing there with Him. It included all countries and generations. It foresaw every believer of all time.

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Romans 10:12).

b. The words "other sheep I have" is a close, intimate term. The closest bond and fellowship

imaginable, a Spirit-filled and supernatural relationship were to exist between Christ and these future sheep. (See Deeper Study #8, Fellowship—Acts 2:42)

## DEEPER STUDY #8 Fellowship

(Acts 2:42) **Fellowship**: the fellowship wrought by the Spirit of God means more than the association existing in secular groups such as civic clubs and community bodies. There is a vast difference between *community participation* and *spiritual participation*. *Community participation* is based upon neighborly association. *Spiritual participation* is based upon a spiritual union wrought by the Spirit of God.

The distinctiveness is this: the Holy Spirit is within the Christian believer. The Holy Spirit creates a spiritual union by melting and molding the heart of the Christian believer to the hearts of other believers. He attaches the life of one believer to the lives of other believers. Through the Spirit of God, believers become one in life and purpose. They have a joint life sharing their blessings and needs and gifts together.

### Note several things about fellowship that are taught by this passage.

1. Fellowship is being experienced by the new believers because they join other Christians in learning the Scriptures (apostles' teachings) and in worship (prayers) and celebrating the Lord's Supper, (Acts 2:41-42).

2. Fellowship forbids an unattached Christian life. Their fellowship is maintained because they "continue steadfastly" in the Scriptures and in worship. An unattached Christian life is just impossible.

a. Christianity is first an individual matter, but then it becomes a social matter. The Christian is attached to Christ individually, but he is also attached to other believers. He walks with other believers in the Scriptures and in worship.

b. Christianity is first a spiritual organism, but then it becomes a spiritual organization. The Christian has an *inward life*, but he also takes on an *outward form* of life. He becomes a living organization with other Christian believers. He sits at the feet of the apostles' teaching and joins right in with other

Christians as they worship together.

c. Christianity makes the true believer a saint (one who is set apart unto God), but Christianity is made up of *saints*—plural. Christianity is not just one person; Christianity is many persons—*saints*. The word is often used in the New Testament, but it is never used in the singular. Christianity is Christianity because the saints *study the Scriptures together* and *worship together*.

d. Christianity demands that a believer personally live out such virtues as kindness, longsuffering, and love; but the believer can do this only in association with others.

e. Christianity means that the Spirit of God has entered the believer's life, but it also means that the Spirit of God has placed the believer into a corporate body (the church), into Christian society itself. The Spirit of God indwells the corporate body of believers as well as the individual.

### 3. Spiritual fellowship faces two dangers.

a. Fellowship and society can be over-emphasized - to the point that individual salvation is missed. An individual must **"receive His Word"** (**Acts 2:41**).

b. Individual salvation and individual worship, whether through nature or by any other means, can be overly stressed—to the point that Christian fellowship and society can be missed.

**"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers"** (**Acts 2:42**).

**"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another"** (**Romans 12:5**).

**"For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread"** (**1 Cor. 10:17**).

**"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus"** (**Galatians 3:28**).

**"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and**

**of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"** (**Ephes. 4:13**).

**"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"** (**Hebrews 10:25**).

**"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"** (**1 John 1:7**).

**"I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts"** (**Psalms 119:63**).

**"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name"** (**Malachi 3:16**).

c. The word **"must"** (*dei*) means necessity, constraint. Jesus was compelled to reach the other sheep.

**"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work"** (**John 4:34**).

**"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work"** (**John 9:4**).

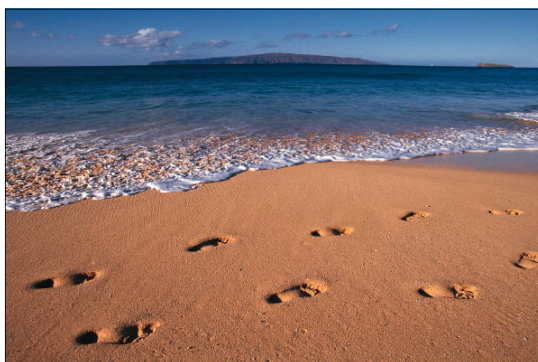
d. The future sheep were to become sheep of His by **"hearing His voice."**

e. There is to be one flock, not two flocks. Every believer becomes a part of the Good Shepherd's flock. Note: there are not several shepherds and several flocks. There are not even two shepherds and two flocks. There is only one shepherd and one flock, and that is the flock of the Good Shepherd, of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

**"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:4-6).**

**Now note:** The very fact that Jesus enlarges the fold is proof that He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Good Shepherd in that He works and labors for both the Owner and the sheep. He works to keep the sheep healthy so that they will reproduce and increase the flock. An enlarged and healthy flock, of course, means a pleased Owner (the Father).

*Continued in next edition...*



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