

Sermon #9

# The Lord is Your Shepherd

God is magnificent and wonderful;

amazing, marvelous and full of goodness.

He is our Creator and Father, Redeemer and Friend.

God saves us from all kinds of harm and delivers us from evil.

He carries us firmly yet gently when we are weak.

He urges and encourages when we are strong.

He fills our every need, to whatever extent we will let Him.

God is loving and kind.

He sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to pastor His flock.

Since Christ is our true pastor anointed by God,

let's get to know Him better!

But rather than me telling you about Jesus today,

I'd like you to let Him tell you about Himself.

Please take your Bibles and open them to the gospels:

Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

Silently pray and ask the Lord to guide and enlighten you.

For the next ten minutes, read Jesus' own testimony and teaching,

for the purpose of becoming better acquainted with Him

and the truth He taught.

*{sit down and read in the gospel accounts for ten minutes}*

Now let's get honest with ourselves.

How much of what Jesus says about himself do we *really* believe?

Are there some parts we superficially accept, but don't really believe?

For instance, do we really believe that Jesus Christ is the way,  
the truth and the life?

If so, wouldn't we be eagerly following His teachings?  
Wouldn't we be doing good to our enemies,  
giving to everyone who asks,  
and cutting off any parts of our bodies that cause us to sin?  
Wouldn't we be living contentedly from day to day on His daily  
provision instead of striving to make more money, save more  
money, and buy excess stuff?  
Wouldn't we be pursuing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
instead of a better job, a bigger house, or a nicer car?

Can anyone in this room honestly say that he or she is living this way?  
I certainly can not.

And the more I hear His word and accept it as true,  
the more I realize just how much I need Him.  
I need Him to forgive my sins, every day.  
I need Him to lead me in His paths of righteousness, every moment.  
I need Him to teach me, heal me, restore me, love me, strengthen me,  
and encourage me.  
Do you need Him?

For the next few months, we will be exploring the reality of following  
Jesus Christ by learning more about what he taught and applying it  
to our daily lives.  
It won't always be fun, but it will be challenging.  
It probably won't bring outward popularity,  
but it will bring inner peace.  
It won't make us all millionaires,  
but it will make us rich in love and joy.  
It won't bring a lifestyle of excess, but it will bring fulfillment.

Let's start taking our Christian walk more seriously now that we realize  
that Christ himself is our Pastor. He sees through all of our facades,  
and He is not nearly as impressed with us as we are with ourselves.  
He knows how much we really need him,  
and He is completely willing to give us all that we need  
to follow Him faithfully and wholeheartedly.

Let's open the doors of our hearts and let him work in and through us according to His perfect will and purpose for each one of us.

Let's each spend some time alone with Jesus Christ this week. Just open your heart and listen to Him speak to you through the still, small voice of the Spirit of Truth. Even five minutes is better than none, and is a step forward in Christ.

Will you ask the Lord to bring you into intimate fellowship with Him for at least five minutes this week? If you ask, He will answer.

“I AM the Lord your God.  
I know just what is best.  
Do you?

I have sent My Son to be your Pastor, and I Am your Pastor, too.  
We live in you and will be with you forever.

Listen and heed My Voice, the voice of truth.  
When you listen to Me and obey My voice, you are living in love.  
I love you. I AM good to you.  
Receive what I have to give, and you will be glad.”

Notes: