

John 10:11-14 – Jesus is God: He is the Good Shepherd who Preserves Life

Gill, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Godet, Morris, Handfuls, Rienecker, Johnson, Barnes, Calvin, Clarke, Family, FFG, JFB, Trapp, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Henry Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: When kids hear the term “stranger danger,” they know what that means! There is someone who might hurt them...so they must run to safety.

You teach them not to engage with that person because that person is not in their self-interest.

There were “stranger dangers” in the Bible also, and Jesus warned his people not to follow them.

The “stranger dangers” **who were supposed to be shepherds of Israel, plundered the sheep!** They should have been a place of safety and comfort for the sheep, but they were savages who abused the sheep for their own benefit. They were not good under-shepherds!

Jesus told his people **not only to avoid these dangerous shepherds, but to come to him and receive his benefits** because he was the True Shepherd!

Yes, Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Light of Life, the Door of Life, and **now you see him as the Good Shepherd who preserves life!**

Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

How is Jesus the Good Shepherd

What are the Implications of the Good Shepherd to You

Our goals are: **That you will rest in the provision and comfort of the True Shepherd and that you will then bring more sheep in so they too can be blessed by the Lord.**

How is Jesus the Good Shepherd

11 "I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd **gives His life for the sheep**.

1. Jesus unequivocally declared he was the Good Shepherd, not the evil shepherds who plundered the sheep.

He was sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel and he did good for them. He brought back the Tree of Life, removed from Eden, which would bring healing to the nations.

Revelation 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the

river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

The world needs healing because the world is sick.

2. Jesus was the Good Shepherd...meaning he was the one and only; the others weren't good enough or they were downright bad.

There are 2 words for good. **This good (kalos) means good in a beautiful way!** So how good was he?

3. Jesus taught he would die for the sheep and rise again to care for them.

It is true there were some prophets who died for the Gospel, but they were not perfect and therefore could not die for the people to save them.

They surely weren't resurrected! So the sheep needed someone to die for them and rise for them! The Good Shepherd did!

Christ's death did not mean disaster for his sheep as when a regular shepherd died, but his death brought life. Now he protects his children from all enemies!

(The wolf was the chief predator for sheep in Palestine.)

12 "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

4. Jesus openly stated the Jewish leaders were acting like hirelings, not true shepherds, and they would abandon the sheep when there was danger.

They would allow the sheep to be “dragged away” and be eaten.

They were not interested in the sheep, but in wages.

They did not fight the wolves, as a true shepherd would.

They did not own the sheep.

So they did not really care for the sheep as the True Shepherd did.

Ezekiel 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "**Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves!** Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 "**You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock.** 4 "The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.

Zechariah 11: 4 Thus says the LORD my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter, 5 "whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity them.

In Isaiah 56, the Lord calls these types of shepherds *dumb shepherds*.

14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

5. Jesus declared he loved his sheep and his sheep love him.

It is true the Good Shepherd can recognize his children anywhere, but the meaning is that he knew them intimately – closely.

This is the word ginoskoh – meaning, to know in an experiential way – like “Adam knew his wife and she conceived.”

1Corinthians 8:3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

The Good Shepherd knows the heart of his sheep. He knows how many hairs his child has on his head!

The Shepherd shows the sheep favor, and the sheep show the Shepherd faith!
Both grounded in love!

6. Jesus didn't make up this doctrine out of thin air; this doctrine was alive and well in the Old Testament.

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Ezekiel 34: 23 "I will establish one shepherd over them, and he

shall feed them — My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd.

Isaiah 40:11 **He will feed His flock like a shepherd**; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Song of Solomon 2:16 THE SHULAMITE My beloved is mine, and I am his. **He feeds his flock among the lilies.**

7. Jesus didn't make up this doctrine out of thin air; it was alive and well in the New Testament!

Hebrews 13: 20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, **that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete** in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1Peter 2: 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. 25 **For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

What are the Implications of the Good Shepherd to You

1. Come to the Good Shepherd; for he is calling you for salvation.

Do not harden your hearts as the Jews did and died, leaving their bones in the hot desert sands.

Hear his voice through his Word – through reading, through listening to preaching, through singing!

Let the Holy Spirit work through that Word to bring salvation to you. Otherwise, it won't be the hot desert, but fiery hell for your bones.

2. Stay with the Good Shepherd, he promised he will never leave you nor forsake you, and he will be with you by his Holy Spirit to give you all you need to grow and to do the work he has called you to do.

You can cast all your cares on him, knowing he cares for you. 1Peter 5:7. **This is sanctification!**

3. Save the Good Shepherd's straying sheep by bringing them to him; it is the least you can do for him.

Find out where they are so they can return and give glory to their Savior. Pray for them. Help them! Rebuke them.

4. The Good Shepherd's promise of salvation was never limited to the Jews; he had his sheep everywhere!

You are one of his sheep, regardless of your background, and you must bring in the other sheep, regardless of their background.

1John 2: 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and **not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

This is the time of ingathering.

The Father sent the Son (Feast of Unleavened Bread-Passover),

and he then sent **his Holy Spirit (Feast of Pentecost),**

and **now is the time for the Father- the Feast of the Ingathering!**

This is New Jerusalem coming down and having doors to invite others in!

5. Many will cry to the Good Shepherd for help but he will reject them because he knows their fake hearts!

Their cry might be strong and passionate, but their hearts will be unregenerated.

Even those who cry “Lord, Lord,” will be told, “**I never knew you because you never knew me.”**

6. Undershepherds have the weight of God’s demands on them to care for and guard the flock well.

They must **love the sheep and care for them as Christ did.** They must give themselves for the sheep.

And like shepherds of the past, **they may have to inflict discipline in order for the sheep to stay close.**

Good undershepherds **may have to stay awake at nights, thinking and praying and advising the flock!**

Question: Should a minister flee if wolves are trying to kill him? John Calvin and others wrestled with this question.

The answer: It depends. If the minister abandons the flock because he is fearful, then that is a sin.

If he leaves because he could ease the hatred on God's people, or so that he could be more useful in other ways, then that is not wrong.

Even Christ fled!

7. Thank God for the work of the Good Shepherd and pray and support his undershepherds who do his work!

They do not do it for praise or for money as they are not hirelings!

There are many who are not fit to be undershepherds.

Work and pray that they are removed.

These are the ones who look for fame or finances and treat God's people with contempt!

The consequences of their actions are deadly to them and to God's children.

8. You who are ministers, elders, and deacons, do you have passion for the sheep (and the sheep that are not yet of the fold) that you will sacrifice yourself for them?

If Christ took so much interest in his children, so should you.

More, defend true doctrines against all enemies!

Fight the bear and lion like David did to protect God's people?

Conclusion:

Jesus is the True Shepherd who gave his life for his sheep and preserves their lives!

He is not a dead shepherd.

He is a living life-giving and life-preserving Shepherd.

He kept what he promised the Father in the Covenant of Redemption.

You get to eat of that Tree of Life that Adam lost!

Beloved in the Lord

1. Show you are grateful to your Good Shepherd who gave his life for you and now keeps you, body and soul, for eternity.

Worship him!

2. Stay close to him. He gave his life on that Tree of Life!

Eat and live!

3. Search for straying sheep and bring them back.

Do you have a friend or relative who worshipped God and has now stopped?

Find them and bring them back.

Help them resolve their issues.

Maybe they were betrayed, abused, or abandoned.

They are still the Lord's sheep.

Everyone is an under-shepherd in a general way.

Search of the lost sheep and invite them to come in the care of the Good Shepherd.

This will honor him. This will save souls from Satan. (Jesus prayed for those who were not yet of his fold. John 17)

Finally, if you don't have Jesus as your Good Shepherd who died for your sins, you will have to die for your own sins.

Why do that and spend eternity in hell when you have someone who already did it for you?

I urge you today to pray to God, asking him to count the life of the Good Shepherd as your life. He will make you his own.