

I. Introduction.

II. The Person of Jesus: He is the Good Shepherd. v. 11a

A. He is THE Good Shepherd. v. 11a

1. He is in a class by Himself -- the Messiah. Ezek. 34:23-24 37:24 Jer. 23:3-6
2. He is the Divine Shepherd. 1:1 10:33 Isa. 40:11 Ezek. 34:11ff Ps. 23 80:1 95:7
3. He is the Chief Shepherd. 1 Pet. 5:2-3 Acts 20:28-29 I Pet. 5:2-3

B. He is the GOOD Shepherd: He is all that a shepherd should be.

1. He knows (loves) His sheep intimately. v. 3, 14-15a,27 I Co. 8:3 II Tim. 2:19
2. He abundantly provides for His sheep. v. 9b, 10b, 28b-29 Ps. 23
3. He is willing to lay down His life for His sheep. v. 11b 15:13 I Jn. 3:16 Isa. 53:6
4. He is of a different character from the hirelings. v. 12-13 Zech. 10:2 11:17
I Sam. 17:34-35 Amos 3:12 Acts 20:29

C. Jesus surpasses any earthly shepherd.

1. When an earthly shepherd dies for his sheep it is an accidental tragedy.
2. The death of an earthly shepherd is bad news for the sheep. Mark 14:27
3. When an earthly shepherd dies, he is permanently dead. v. 17
4. Jesus our Shepherd is also the sacrificial Lamb. 1:29 Is. 53:6ff Rev. 5:5 7:17 22:1

III. The work of Jesus: He lays down His life for the sheep. v. 11b

A. He performs His saving work in perfect harmony with the Father. v. 14-15,17-18

1. God the Father and God the Son have a perfect eternal mutual knowledge (love).
v. 15 3:35 7:29 8:55 17:5,25 Mt. 11:27
2. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are in perfect harmony in the plan of salvation (the Covenant of Redemption). v. 17-18 5:30 3:16 17:21 Eph. 1:3-14
 - a. The Father chose some for salvation from before the foundation of the world.
Eph. 1:3-6
 - b. The Son has been sent into the world in order to redeem those given to Him by the Father. 6:37,39,44,65 17:6 Eph. 1:7-12 Acts 2:23 4:27-28
 - c. The Holy Spirit renews and seals those chosen by the Father for whom the Son died. 1:13 3:3-8 Eph. 1:13-14
3. The Father delights in the Son's accomplishment. v. 17-18 Phi. 2:9-11
4. We are known and loved by God because we are in Christ. 14:21

B. Jesus' death was voluntary. v. 11b, 15b, 17-18 15:13 18:3-6 19:11 Isa. 53:7,12

**C. Jesus death was vicarious (substitutionary) -- for the sheep. v. 11b,15b 6:51 18:14
Mk. 10:45 II Co. 5:21 Isa. 53:4-6 Ro. 5:6-8 Gal. 3:13 I Pet. 3:18**

**D. Jesus' death was victorious -- resurrection. v. 17-18 5:26 Isa. 53:10-12 Heb. 13:20
Acts 2:32,24**

E. Christ's death was particular. v. 11,15,26-27

1. He died for His sheep. v. 11,15,26-27
Not all are His sheep. v. 26
2. He gave Himself up for His bride. Eph. 5:25
3. He purchased people *out of* every tribe, tongue, people and nation. Rev. 5:9

4. He redeemed us. Titus 2:14 1 Pet. 3:18 2 Co. 5:21 Mt. 1:21 1 Jo. 3:1
5. Jesus' work of dying on the cross is in harmony with the Father's will to save those whom He gave to the Son. 6:37,44 17:6-10,23-24 5:30
6. Other texts teaching particular redemption. 17:6,9 6:39 11:41-42 Ro. 8:33-34 5:15 Mark 10:45 Heb. 9:28 Isa. 53:11 Rom. 5:15
7. Jesus died as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinners by which He actually paid the penalty we owed and propitiated God's wrath, purchasing us and reconciling us to God. Rom. 5:6,18 3:25 Gal. 3:13 1 Pet. 2:24 3:18 2 Co. 5:18-21 Isa. 53:4-6,10-12
 - a. If Jesus died (paid) for all the sins of all men, all would be saved.
 - b. If Jesus died for some of the sins of all men, none would be saved.
 - c. Jesus died for all sins of some men; therefore, all of the elect are saved.
Heb. 2:17 Heb. 9:14-15 Eph. 1:7 Mark 10:45 1 Pet. 1:18-19 3:18 Col. 1:21-22
8. All of those for whom Christ died shall be saved (through faith). v. 4a,26-29 6:37-40 Acts 20:28 Isa. 53:10-11
9. The comfort of believers is that Christ died for you. Rom. 8:31-34

F. Points of clarification.

1. All evangelical Christians agree that the value of the atonement is infinite and that the benefits of the atonement are only received by those who believe.
2. All evangelical Christians believe that we should freely and indiscriminately offer the gospel to all. 6:51 3:16 Acts 1:8 Matthew 28:18ff Acts 18:9-10
3. What about texts which seem to say that the atonement is universal?
 - a. The breadth of Christ's work extends not merely to the Jews, but to the world.
v. 16 1:29 3:16 Rev. 5:9
 - b. *All* does not always mean every person without exception. v. 8 3:26 Mk. 10:13
4. All of the glory in your salvation goes to the Lord. Gal. 6:14 1 Co. 1:30-31

G. Jesus' sheep include both Jews and Gentiles whom He gathers in one flock. v. 16

1. This was God's plan from the beginning. 4:23 17:20 3:16 11:51-52 Gen. 12:3 Isa. 49:6 56:6-8 Mal. 1:11 Joel 2:28 Rev. 5:9 7:9-10
2. There is one people of God! 17:21 Eph. 2:11-21 1 Pet. 2:9-10 Gal. 3:28-29
3. He *must* bring them all. v. 16 6:37,44

IV. Concluding applications: What is your response to such a Shepherd? v. 19-21

- A. Praise God for our Shepherd Who loved us and lay down His life for us.
- B. Enjoy the abundant life Jesus your Shepherd has purchased at so great a cost.
- C. Sacrificially love others as He has loved you. John 13:12-17 Eph. 5:1-2,25
- D. If you know that you are a lost sheep hearken to the voice of Christ and He will save you. Rev. 7:17 Ps. 119:176 1 Pet. 2:24-25

Discussion questions

1. What does this text say about Jesus' person (identity)?
2. How does Jesus differ from other shepherds?
3. Explain the harmony of the Father, the Son and the Spirit in the plan of salvation.
4. What is the significance of Jesus death being *for* His sheep?
5. Who received the benefits of Jesus' death? Explain why you believe this.
6. Why must those for whom Jesus died believe?
7. Is it possible that some for whom Jesus died will not believe? Prove it from Scripture.
8. Why evangelize if God has already determined who will be saved?
9. Why is Jesus' death for us in particular a great comfort?
10. How many flocks (peoples) does God have?
When did God decide to add the Gentile believers to His flock?
11. How should we apply these truths in relation to God and in relation to one another?