

THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

Text: ***“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”*** John 10:11.

In coming to the message of the hour, we ask six great questions.

I. WHAT IS THE FALSE WAY OF SALVATION? – Notice verse 1 of John chapter 10.

1. Salvation by DOING
 2. Salvation by DECISION
 3. Salvation by CULTURE
 4. Salvation by CHARACTER
 5. Salvation by LAW-KEEPING
- Notice truth about the Law — Rom. 3:19-20
 1. It cannot forgive
 2. It cannot forget
 3. It cannot make a dead man alive
 4. Law cannot make us holy
 - Concerning false ways of salvation, notice Jude vs. 11, ***“Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core (Korah).”***
 1. Cain is the way of *no* Blood.
 2. Balaam represents the way of *no* Supernatural Power.
 3. Korah is the way *without* a Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

II. WHAT IS THE TRUE WAY OF SALVATION? – Again note verse 1 of our chapter, and remember — Jesus is the Gospel; Jesus is Salvation; Jesus is the Only Way. He said:

1. I am THE Good Shepherd
 2. I am THE Door
 3. I am THE Bread
 4. I am THE Way
 5. I am THE Truth
 6. I am THE Life
 7. I am THE Resurrection
- References: John 10:9; 11:25-27; 14:5-6.

III. WHY ARE THE LORD’S PEOPLE CALLED SHEEP? I have studied a few things about the animal we know of as “sheep.”

1. Sheep are harmless creatures
2. Sheep are innocent creatures
3. Sheep are profitable creatures
4. A sheep is a clean animal
5. Sheep are defenseless creatures
6. Sheep are dumb animals
7. Sheep have no homing instinct, must have the Shepherd
8. Sheep cannot clean themselves
9. Sheep cannot live and function without the Shepherd

10. God's elect people are always sheep in the purpose of God, but not so as touching its accomplishment until they are regenerated and brought to the Shepherd. The ELECT are designated "sheep" before they believe, and in God's purpose they are already in a justified state. The only way anyone is constituted a "sheep" is by the immutable Divine Decree.

• References: John 10:6; 1 Pet. 2:24-25.

IV. WHEN DOES THE GOOD SHEPHERD CALL HIS SHEEP? Look at verse 3.

1. When it pleases God (Gal. 1:15-16)
2. Some are called from the womb (John the Baptist, Jeremiah, Moses, etc.)
3. Some are called by a sovereign Gospel Call (Luke 19:10).
4. Some are called in the hour of death (Mat. 20 "the eleventh hour" – Luke 23:42-43).
5. Remember, no man can know his ELECTION but by his CALLING. Isa. 26:12.

V. WHAT DOES THE GOOD SHEPHERD DO FOR THE SHEEP? Ah, listen!

1. He dies for them
2. He calls them
3. He feeds them
4. He leads them
5. He gives them eternal life and they shall never perish (John 10:26-29).

VI. WHERE DO WE FIND THE LORD'S PEOPLE TODAY? Which category are you in?

1. Some are yet in Egypt.
2. Some are in the Wilderness.
3. Some are in Canaan's land.
4. Some are in Heaven (Rev. 14:13)

Conclusion: Are you in Christ? Do you belong to the Good Shepherd? Is the call of God upon your soul? Cry out to HIM! Amen and Amen!

— From the outlines of **Brother B. B. Caldwell**