

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading John 10:11-18

- *Christ the sure and steady anchor*
- *Jesus the Shepherd of my soul*
- *284, Rock of Ages*
- *He will hold me fast*

What's going on with the Gideons?

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his sheep & they know Him

His voice guides them in paths of righteousness

Psalm 23:1-3, John 10:11-18, James 3:13-18

Sending prayer

- Today, Gideons speaker

- Next Sunday, communion and pot-luck

- March 25th, Hartstone work day

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

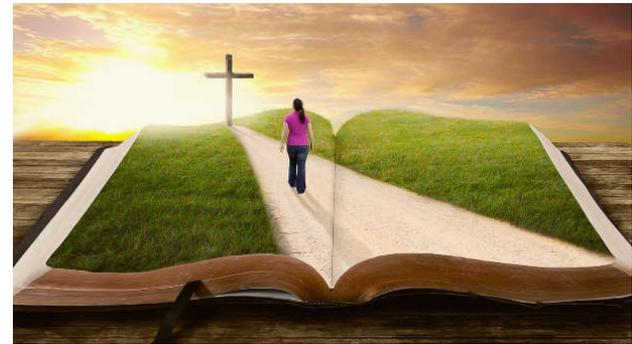
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- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his sheep & they know Him

His voice guides them in paths of righteousness

Psalm 23:1-3, John 10:11-18, James 3:13-18

- January 29th, 2023 -

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his sheep & they know Him

His voice guides them in paths of righteousness

Psalm 23:1-3, John 10:11-18, James 3:13-18

Today's teaching from the Word is simple: Who is Jesus? What does He claim to be and to do? What is His relationship to His sheep, and theirs to Him? And because of Who He is, His sheep, being secure in Him, have true and knowable moral duties and prohibitions.

We begin in that most famous of Psalms from David. Psalm 23:1-3.

There we find 3 plain facts about the LORD*, Yahweh:

(*LORD in the OT is translated from Yahweh/Jehovah, Lord is Adonai).

V1, The **LORD**, Yahweh is **David's Shepherd**. *Yahweh provides.*

v2-3a, **4 things the LORD does as Shepherd:**

1- *Makes/causes,*

2- *leads,*

3- *restores,*

4- *guides.*

v3b, The LORD **guides David in paths of righteousness**, for the sake of LORD's name/reputation.

Now turn to the gospel of John and chapter 10:11.

Here Jesus plainly tells us Who He is: **"I am (ego eimi – an I AM statement), The Good Shepherd"**. Jesus connects himself in two ways to Psalm 23:1:

1) He uses the I AM to call Himself Jehovah God.

2) He claims with a bold, direct statement that He is The Good Shepherd of David's Psalm 23.

If you back up to 10:7 and 9, Jesus validates the Goodness of His claim: He is not just the Shepherd, He's the Door! Good shepherds would gather the sheep into the enclosure at night and sleep literally in the doorway so that no sheep could wander, and no predator or thief could enter and steal or kill the sheep (v10, 12). This is what Jesus means when He says in v11, ***"The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."***

V14, Here the Good Shepherd speaks of the individual, personal knowledge that He has for each and every one of His sheep. Shepherds through the ages have done this, even calling each sheep in the flock by a unique name. In other words, we're not a faceless crowd to God, but each is guarded, protected, led and fed by the Good Shepherd.



By the same token, each sheep knows the Shepherd's voice! There is intimacy of communion not only with the other sheep, but with Christ, the Good Shepherd of our souls, as we sang today!

V15, Jesus knows us just as intimately and personally as His own beloved, as Jesus knows the Father! This is security and fellowship unfathomable, but true and precious!

Now then: Since we *are known and since we do know* the Good Shepherd, we have a wholesome and obvious duty to comport ourselves as under the Shepherd Who is the *Wisdom of God*. See 1 Cor 1:24-25

See James 3:13-18, The LORD who is our Shepherd, guides is in paths of righteousness for His name sake!

How should the Good Shepherd's sheep behave, being known by the Holy Good Shepherd and knowing Him in return?