

Observation: *No animal resembles us more than a sheep!*

- Once a sheep is lost, it is unable to find its way back
- A sheep by itself is seldom clean and can't clean itself
- None is more defenseless than a sheep

THE SHEPHERD'S ANOINTING OF HIS SHEEP

- I. Why does He need to anoint them? II. How does He anoint them?
III. What is result of this anointing?

I. Why does the Shepherd need to anoint them?

A. Though 'table lands' are wonderful, the reality there can be torturous

1. summer time is 'fly-time'

2. summer time 'scab time'

B. Shepherd's care in anointing His sheep is to defend and heal them

1. Without the shepherd every sheep doomed to dreadful torture & death!
 - a. this is the picture of lost mankind: Is. 57:20-21 – Ps. 32:10 – Ps. 16:4

 - b. yet God's sheep are not exempt from the 'fly and scab season'
 - though justification is complete, sanctification is not

 - though a new heart is given, the old heart is still troubling
- Rom. 7:12-24

II. How does He anoint them?

A. The shepherd uses a mixture with oil and applies it to affected areas

B. 'Anointing oil' is the supreme symbol of the Holy Spirit's ministry

1. Compare Romans 8:1, 2, 5, 13, 23, 26, 27

2. As sheep can't apply the oil themselves, so we can't either

3. All glory of salvation belongs to Father and Son through the Holy Spirit
 - a. He is the Comforter – Spirit of power, grace, truth
 - b. He sheds abroad the love of God into heart
 - c. He strengthens faith in its exercise to overcome world
 - d. He fills with joy and peace in believing
 - e. He helps us in our prayers as we know not what and how to pray
- C. Real sheep don't seek the anointing of shepherd *but we are expected to seek!*
 1. Consider Paul's exhortations in 1 Thess. 5:17-23; Col. 3:16; Phil 4:8
 - a. the Word of God washes and cleanses and renews (Ps. 119)
 - b. the Sacraments are His means to strengthen (1 Cor. 11:25)

III. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THIS ANOINTING?

- A. David confessed what this anointing does to a believer: *my cup runneth over*
 1. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty to confess and sing (Ex. 15)
 - a. consider David's Psalms running over his cup of joy: Ps. 34, 40
 2. The cup only runs over because He fills it more than full!
 - a. shepherds always carried a bottle of 'strong potion' to revive sheep
 - b. in order to give it, the shepherd needed to remain alert, be with them and act quickly
 3. So when 'our cup overflows' it is again a tribute to the Shepherd!

Consider ...

- A. The Shepherd is our midst *seeking – searching – calling – reaching* lost sheep!
 1. Fear not to answer Him when He calls you in the Gospel or warns you in His law: *His intent is not evil – not to harm but to seek and save!*

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:17
If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. John 4:10