

SCRIPTURE READING: EXODUS 20:1-17 & ISAIAH 11:1-9

SINGING: 10:1-3 – 435:9 – 354:1-6 -- 249:1-6 – 56:1-3

THE SHEPHERD GUIDING THE SHEEP HOME

I. What follows Christ's sheep? II. Where are Christ's sheep going?

I. AS SHEPHERD GUIDES HIS SHEEP, WHAT WILL FOLLOW THEM?

A. Two answers are possible:

1. What does the shepherd use to guide His sheep?
2. What is the fruit of the Shepherd's guidance of His sheep?

B. What does the Shepherd use to guide His sheep?

1. Context: *from alp-lands to home-valley-lands*

a. sheep often are reluctant to 'travel on' or 'return home'

b. spiritually Christ's people display the same reluctances

- prefer to cling to *former experiences and comforts*

- prone to wander off track

2. To guide his sheep the shepherd uses various methods/tools

a. vs. 6 is a 'confession born out of experience' (Phil 4; 2 Cor. 4:3-5)

b. 'goodness and mercy' refer to *shepherd's measures* to guide his sheep

- the 'tools and measures' of the shepherd

- the spiritual life 'tools and measures' Jehovah uses

c. the LORD's sheep will not *want* what is *needed* (vs. 1)

- Are we learning to trust and value the Shepherd's measures?

C. What are the fruits of the sheep that follow the Shepherd?

1. Sheep are the most amazing life-stock

a. sheep have the ability to turn grazing lands into desolation

b. sheep under skillful management land restorers

2. Are we such a flock of sheep?
 - a. Are we used to turn *desolate lives into fruitful lives*?
 - b. Is our memory of our presence and influences blessed?
 - c. Are we a magnet like the Lord Jesus was to 'sinners and publicans?'

II. WHERE ARE CHRIST'S SHEEP GOING?

A. All of Christ's sheep are *led to 'house of the LORD forever'*

1. what is a 'house' suggest?
 2. what will be experienced in this 'house of the LORD?'
 - a. consider the picture of Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:17-25
 - the animals represent characters
 - the harmony and peace represent Paradise
 - b. the chief attraction of the house of the LORD is the LORD (Rev. 21)
 - He will dwell with His people
 - He will wipe all tears from His people
 - He will rejoice with His people
 - He will feed His people

A FINAL LOOK BACK ... Come and See this Shepherd!

A. Our fallen world is the most wretched ranch (Eph. 2:1-3)

1. What are God's sheep doing to recommend their Shepherd?
2. How can God's sheep abound in fruitfulness?

B. Is there any equal to Jehovah the Shepherd in all His glory?