

THE SHEPHERD'S FOURFOLD CARE IN FREEING HIS SHEEP

Intro. When or how will a sheep lie down contently?

I. THE SHEPHERD'S CARE IN FREEING A SHEEP FROM FEAR

A. One of greatest needs we all have a *sense of security*

1. The God's Word declares that 'all who are Christ's are secure'

a. consider these jewels of truth: Is. 54:17; John 10:9, 10, 28; Jude 1;
Phil 1:6; Heb. 13:5-6; 1 Peter 1:5; 3:12-14; Romans 8:28, 38-39

b. if not in the Shepherd's care, you have no security: Is. 57:20-21; Job
15:20-25; 18:5ff; Ps. 16:4

2. Yet to *be secure* and *have a sense of security* are two different things

a. Are you a sheep *still frightened about the future?* (Is. 43:1-2; 15-16;
Matthew 6:25ff; Ps. 46)

b. Are you a sheep *frightened about your sins?* (Is. 55:6-8; Matt. 11:28)

II. THE SHEPHERD'S CARE IN FREEING A SHEEP FROM FRICTION WITH OTHERS

A. Sheep will not lie down when there is a restlessness and tension in the flock

1. Each flock has bullies who set a *butting order* which negatively affects all

2. Sadly many believers/churches are *ruined* spiritual bullies (James 3:13-18)

B. There is only one way for a flock to be delivered from this *cruel competition*

1. Presence and caring involvement of the Shepherd: Ezek. 34:15-16; 20-24

a. the Shepherd will *discipline* the bully sheep

- a church who fails to use Biblical discipline ruins itself

b. we need to do all *to seek Presence of the Chief Shepherd as well
to employ Him as our Shepherd*

- where He dwells, the fruit of the Spirit will flourish (Ezek.
34:25-28)

III. THE SHEPHERD'S CARE IN FREEING A SHEEP FROM FLIES AND OTHER PARASITES

- A. Nothing so disturbs 'contentment' of sheep than biting and stinging insects
- B. Each upright sheep will be under relentless assault of biting sin – temptations
1. How disturbing can the inner thoughts of the godly be!
 - a. the assault of the most horrible thoughts about God!
 - Ps. 73; Job 19; Jer. 12:1-3
 - b. the assault of evil jealousy, bitterness, anger against others
 - Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:5- 14
 2. Yet also this is Shepherd's task and joy to minister to: *He calls upon us to 'employ Him daily'* Ps. 81:10; Jer. 33:3; Matt 7:7; Heb. 4:14-16
 - a. He has the power to rid us of all pesky powers of sin and temptation
 - b. With His presence He makes His content in worst places: Phil. 4:4-7

IV. THE SHEPHERD'S CARE IN FREEING A SHEEP FROM HUNGER

- A. Green (lush) pastures don't happen by chance in most sheep countries (arid)
1. Such pastures are product of *careful and intensive land management*
 2. God the Father is this *rich and green pasture* in this wilderness world
 - a. He gave Jesus as *the Door* to His pastures (John 10:9 & 10b)
 - b. Jesus as Shepherd laid down His life to give us access to the green pastures of *reconciliation – salvation – glorification*
 - c. Jesus also exercised His power to *lead sheep through this Door*

CLOSING QUESTION: WHERE ARE YOU FEEDING?

- A. How foolish to 'feed on parched/arid grounds' of vanities of this life?
1. Jesus' question needs to be answered: *For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?* (Luke 9:25)
- B. How sad that so many of Christ's sheep are *discontented and restless!*
1. Jesus' question needs to lead us to examine: *Why are you fearful, you of little faith?* (Matt 8:26)