

Opening comments

- Habits begin like cobwebs but most end like cables
- Though we cultivate many bad habits, one is the worst of all

THE SHEPHERD'S LEADING OF HIS SHEEP

I. Sheep need constant leading

II. The shepherd leads his sheep into the best pasture along the best path

I. THE SHEEP NEED CONSTANT LEADING

A. It is myth that sheep can get along anywhere by themselves

1. when left to themselves, they will die due to bad habits

2. when left sheep easily wander into places from where they can't return

II. THE SHEPHERD LEADS HIS SHEEP INTO THE BEST PASTURES ALONG THE BEST PATH

A. How does the shepherd deals with these destructive tendencies in his sheep?

1. He keeps his sheep on the move
 - a. this moving isn't random but carefully pre-determined

 - b. so God knows how to *keep His people moving* (Rom. 8:28)

2. He leads his sheep to *right pasture* along the right paths (John 10:9)
 - a. the best grazing areas may be hard to reach

 - b. Chief Shepherd knows *how to lead each sinner to best pasture*
 - What is the 'best pasture' for us sinners?

 - There is only one right path to come to the best pasture

B. What is that right and only path that leads to God?

1. Defined as *the path of righteousness*

a. what is righteousness?

- something we once possessed
- something we desperately need
- something we can't bring forth anymore of ourselves

b. we need God's leading from *wrong path* to the *right paths*

- wrong rut of *law-obedience*
- wrong rut of *self-improvement*
- wrong rut of *poverty-appeal*

2. Path of Righteousness is the *Shepherd Himself* (Ps. 22)

a. Jesus is the *LORD our Righteousness* (Jer. 23:5-6; 51:10)

C. How does He lead His sheep into the path of righteousness?

1. by showing how each other path leads to death/damnation
2. by revealing Himself as only name – only path – only door for sinners
3. by empowering your soul to come and to confess Him as only hope!

D. Why does He lead His sheep into these paths?

1. There is one sole reason: *For His Name's sake* (Rom. 11:36)

CLOSING SHEPHERD'S CALL: *COME UNTO ME!*