

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Names & Titles of Jesus Lesson 15 - The chief Shepherd

return pages 6 & 7

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Notice how the Holy Spirit is careful to capitalize the word "Shepherd" in this verse. Think about that, if the word "chief" was capitalized, people may have believed that He was an Indian chief.

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. We have learn to pay attention when we see a word capitalized in the middle of a sentence that it is a proper noun, the name of a person, place or class of peoples.

Three points we need to make here:

- The Bible refers to Jesus Christ as a shepherd.
- He is called the Good Shepherd...who giveth His life to the sheep.
- He is called the Great Shepherd... who will come again to rule and reign over His pasture.

In this lesson we will look at Jesus Christ as the chief Shepherd, particularly how He is watching caring over His church.

1 Peter 5:1-5... The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd (Capital "S" – that is Jesus) when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Everything that God established has order. When God put a man and a woman in a garden He established that the man would be the head over the woman. When God established government He set kings upon thrones, judges upon seats where they would hear the affairs the matters of the state. When He established a church He established a particular order in the church. Today this has become a source of irritation for many churches. Different denominations differ over who is the authority in the church. Some say the pastor, the elders the governing board of deacons, the people who contribute the most money, or an outside denominational structure that exercises authority over the church. The Bible makes it very clear the church

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belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the head of that church and He is the chief Shepherd of that church. Jesus Christ is the good Shepherd... the chief Shepherd... the great Shepherd. The Lord is very careful in His Bible about what words He uses or does not use. He never refers to anyone in the church as a shepherd. Only Jesus Christ is the chief Shepherd.

Let us look at what the Bible says about these elders and their ministry mentioned in 1 Peter 5 more importantly at what it says about the chief Shepherd... because that is the key.

Verse 1. *The elders which are among you...* (They are not over; they are among. They are not elevated; they are on equal footing. In Revelation 2:6, 15 there was a group of individuals called the Nicolaitans who had elevated themselves above the other members in the church, the Bible says "*hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans," "the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."*

Obviously the Lord wants the position of the chief Shepherd and all we His sheep should take the lower place on equal ground. All of us who are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, kept by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, We are members of His church, we may have different gifts or different duties within the church, but we are all on the same authority level. We all answer to the chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 2 *Feed the flock of God....* The flock belongs to God. It does not belong to the pastor, the elders or the denomination. The flock belongs to Jesus Christ. Those who have positions of leadership within the church as well as those who have positions of support within the church should all continually be appreciated. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. He is the Shepherd. We are the sheep. ... *Feed the flock of God which is among you....* Again, notice the phrase, *among you, taking the oversight thereof...* (oversight.) This word does not mean control. A pastor who attempts to control the members in church will only limit their growth in the Lord. Each member has their own walk with God and should be allowed to grow and mature as they yield themselves to the Lord.

The responsibility of the elders within the body of Christ is to keep an eye on things. Watch, pray, minister, bear burdens, warn; run to help. But control? That is out of the question. There is no pastor that can make a husband love his wife or a wife her husband, but they can watch and if they see friction, they may say something like, "Hey, brother, is everything okay? I've noticed the little friction there. Is there something we can do to help?" The church belongs to Jesus Christ.

Verse 2 ... *taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;* Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He calls upon every member of the church to be like Him... to walk in His footsteps... to allow the Holy Spirit to conform us to His image. How much more those whom He has placed to be leaders within a flock – they should be

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walking an exemplary life. They should be manifesting the character quality of the person of Jesus Christ. What do these verses say to us about our chief Shepherd? He does not constrain, He receives willing service, He does not make you worship; He rewards willing obedience. It would probably be easier for us to live the Christian life if the Lord forced us, instead just as He is in salvation, He asks and waits for our response. He is a gentleman allowing us to make our own decisions to follow His guiding hand to result in receiving blessings from Him. If all power is given unto Him, how does the sheep (Christian) go astray? James 1:13-15. The chief Shepherd will not stop them from wandering. You are free to reject Jesus Christ. You are free to receive Him. ***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*** Jesus Christ the chief Shepherd leads the sheep, we are not cattle, He does not drive us; He leads us as we follow because we want too.

Let us look at Jesus Christ as a good shepherd, John 10:11 ***I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*** John 10:14 ***I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.***

Psalms 23: 1-6

- The shepherd's life desire is to care for His sheep, they are His livelihood.
- The shepherd has planned out our route prior to our birth to insure that we will never lack.
- The Shepherd cares for the sheep so He keeps them moving up to a higher plain where they can be safe and comfortable.
- The Shepherd knows how easily the sheep scare, so He will lead the sheep to the mouth of the stream where the water is clean and deep.
- The shepherd will often just hold the sheep to help them out of their fearful situation.
- The shepherd loves His sheep, they are not only His livelihood, but He has grown attached to each one on them as if they are His own children.
- The shepherd never sleeps He is always keeping a watchful eye on the sheep.
- The shepherd is always leading the sheep, alert ready to protect the sheep even if it costs Him, His life.
- The shepherd's rod is used as a weapon, an experienced shepherd knows how to use it in the event He has to kill the enemy. The staff is curved like the end of a cane and is used to lift the sheep up when they fall.
- The shepherd will lead the sheep up thru the dangerous areas to the higher tops of the mountains where the vegetation is free from thorns and poisons.

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- The shepherd uses the oil to soothe the sheep and help promote healing.
- The shepherd only wants the best for us, He has given us the purest and deepest water we can possibly have His Word, Himself in the Holy Bible, we can never exhaust its' supply.
- The chief Shepherd has given His life for the sheep, His goal is to have healthy sheep.
- The shepherd is preparing a place for His sheep and that place is in His house.
- Where we will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

If you would surrender control of your life to Him, He would make it the best life anybody's ever lived. Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* I have heard people say; I cannot preach, teach, witness, I am not talented, my answer is have you ever tried? Give Him what you have, give Him your body let Him do with it what He wants. Read what Moses told the Lord - Exodus 4:10, Read what Jeremiah said to the Lord - Jeremiah 1:5-9

1 Peter 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.* The chief Shepherd is going to reward those sheep who followed His example. For all eternity they will be rewarded not for doing what He forced them to do but for doing what they chose to do because they loved and trusted the chief Shepherd. The chief Shepherd is not waiting to wreck your life when you fail, He is going to bless you because He is the chief Shepherd. He is going to lead you to still waters, lead you to green pastures, drive away the wolves as He prepares a table for you in the presence of your enemies because that is who He is, that is what He does.

Are you willingly following the chief Shepherd? If you are, there will be a reward.

John 10:15 *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.* David was a shepherd 1 Samuel 17:34 – a great type and picture of Jesus Christ. There was a time when a bear came and carried off one of the sheep. David at the risk of his own life went out took hold on that bear delivering the sheep from its' claws. He put his life on the line so that sheep could live. Another time a lion threaten the sheep David sought after that lion and delivered the sheep. He put His life on the line so that sheep could live. 1 Samuel 17:34-36

Jesus Christ sitting on His throne in heaven, cherubim, seraphim and the archangels praising Him, He leaves all that to come down here to this earth. Why? There were sheep that were lost. He put His life on the line so

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that you and I could be saved. He said: I am the chief Shepherd because I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:27-29.. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* The sheep are not secure because they follow the shepherd. The sheep are secure because the shepherd will not let them go. Praise God! *29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* Now you might wonder off get away from His perfect green pastures or His still waters and find yourself out in the wilderness sometime. He will come get you. You may get yourself into some scrapes – but you cannot get yourself into the jaws of the lion. (1 Peter 5:8) The devil may not devour you; you are safe in the chief Shepherd's hand.

Do you know what the chief Shepherd delights to give His sheep? Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. What is the world crazy for? Material things. The chief Shepherd said, I will give you all that you need. (Matthew 6:25-32) You follow me and I will give you what money cannot buy. I will give you what the world cannot.

If we follow the chief Shepherd every single day of our life everywhere we go we will enjoy His blessings.

Notes

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Names & Titles of Jesus
Lesson 15 – The chief Shepherd

Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What do we learn when we see a word capitalized?
2. What does the sheep mean to the Shepherd?
3. Who in the Bible is a great type and picture of the chief Shepherd?
4. Psalms 23:1-6 is an explanation of how our chief Shepherd cares for us. Place the correct verse next to the statement.
 - The shepherd will often just hold the sheep to help them out of their fearful situation. _____.
 - The shepherd uses the oil to soothe the sheep and help promote healing. _____.
 - Where we will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. _____.
 - The shepherd will lead the sheep up thru the dangerous areas to the higher tops of the mountains where the vegetation is free from thorns and poisons. _____.
 - The shepherd only wants the best for us, He has given us the purest and deepest water we can possibly have, His Word, Himself in the Holy Bible, we can never exhaust its' supply. _____.
 - The shepherd's rod is used as a weapon, an experienced shepherd knows how to use it in the event He has to kill the enemy. The staff is curved like the end of a cane and is used to lift the sheep up when they fall. _____.
 - The shepherd is always leading the sheep, alert ready to protect the sheep even if it costs Him, His life. _____.
 - The shepherd life desire is to care for His sheep, they are His livelihood. _____.

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5. Explain why we can never lose our salvation?
6. Explain who the Nicolaitans were and why the Lord hated their deeds?
7. What is the meaning of the word "oversight"?
8. Explain James 1:13-15 in reference to this lesson.
9. What does the chief Shepherd delight to give his followers?
10. From this lesson, what is a unique example proving that the Holy Spirit was in control during the writing of the scriptures?
11. Explain the importance of the two words in 1 Peter 5 *"among you"*?

True/false

- Jesus Christ is the head and leader of the church not the pastor.
- The born again believers are sheep not cattle, they are to be led, not driven.
- The believer is instructed to present his body, not his talents.

**Scripture memorization**

1 Peter 5:4; John 10:11; John 10:27

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

Any Questions?