

# CHIEF SHEPHERD

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"To the elders who 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; 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; and neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the **Chief Shepherd shall appear**, you shall receive a crown of glory that does not fade away." (1 Peter 5:1-4)

**Chief Shepherd:** from the Greek word *Archipoimenos* which means "Chief-shepherd" In context of Christ who is the head of the church. From *archo* which means: to rule, or to reign, used as a prefix to another word (such as shepherd) to show that someone in particular reigns or rules over others who hold similar positions (I.e, other subordinate shepherds); and from *poimen* which means: a shepherd; someone who cares for, and feeds sheep.

**In Context:** Jesus is the Chief Shepherd who rules over subordinate shepherds, such as pastors, elders, and teachers: who are entrusted by Jesus to lead, feed, and care for the churches of God (believers in Christ Jesus). Those shepherds subordinate to Christ Jesus who do well as Peter exhorts, shall receive a crown of glory that does not fade away; and Jesus shall say unto them:

“ Well done, **good and faithful servant**; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of your Lord.” (Matthew 25:23)

In the past there was a problem with the shepherds of Israel! Consider the following:

“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; 'Woe to the shepherds of Israel that feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat, and you clothe yourselves with the wool, you kill them that are fed: but you feed not the flock.' .... **Therefore will I save My flock** .... And I will set up **One Shepherd** (speaking of the messiah Jesus) over them, **and He shall feed them**, even My Servant David (again speaking of the Messiah Jesus); He shall feed them, and **He shall be their Shepherd**. And I the LORD will be their God, and **My Servant David** (will be) **a Prince** among them; I the LORD have spoken it.” (please read in context Ezekiel 34:1-24)

As Chief Shepherd, in this present church age, Jesus is the Chief Shepherd over each and every local church, and over each and every shepherd (pastors, bishops, elders, overseers) of the local churches. As such Jesus has the authority and right to expect submission to His commandments and decrees. Consider Paul's warning to the elders (shepherds) over the church of Ephesus:

“And from Miletus he (Paul) sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said unto them ... “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church (flock) of God (in context Jesus), which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. **Therefore watch, and remember**, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the **Word of His Grace**, which (or who) is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (see Acts 20:17-38)

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Apparently the elders of Ephesus, or their successors, slipped somewhat in adhering fully to Paul's words; for later their **Chief Shepherd Jesus** Himself had this to say to the shepherd (pastor) of Ephesus:

“Unto the angel (pastor) of the church of Ephesus write; These things says He (Jesus) who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands; I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you cannot bear those who are evil: and you have tested those who say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them to be liars. And you have persevered and have patience, and for My name's sake have labored, and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you: that **you have left your first love!** Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent, and do **the first works**; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove your lampstand (their church – see Revelation 1:12, & 20) out of its place, unless you repent. But this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him who overcomes I (Jesus the Chief Shepherd) will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God! ” (see Revelation 2:1-7)

To all those who have been called of God to be under-shepherds consider following words:

“For this purpose you have been called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps; who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; and who, when He was reviled, reviled not back; and when He suffered, He did not threatened; but committed Himself to Him (the Father) who judges righteously. And **He Himself bore our sins in His own body** on the tree (the Cross), so that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but have now returned unto **the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls (Jesus Himself)**.” (1Peter 2:21-25)

“Now may the God of Peace, who brought (raised) up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the **Great Shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13: 20-21)

**Jesus is...**

**the Chief Shepherd,  
and the Great Shepherd,  
our One and only Shepherd,  
the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls!**

**He shall restore our souls.  
He shall lead us beside still waters.  
He shall make us to lie down in green pastures.  
He shall give us a crown of glory that does not fade away!  
He shall lead us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**Jesus, You are the Chief Shepherd!  
You are my Shepherd!**

**Thank You Jesus! Thank You for Your sweet salvation!  
To You be all the glory for ever and ever, Amen!**