

the OVERSEER OF YOUR (OUR) SOULS

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"**He Himself**, (Jesus), bore your sins in His own body on the cross, that you might die to sins, and live to righteousness. By His stripes you were healed! For you were as sheep going astray; but have now returned unto the Shepherd and **Overseer of Your Souls**." (1 Peter 2:24-25)

The context is that of sinful people who have strayed away from God, but who have now returned to Jesus, the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. Apart from Christ Jesus, He is not the Bishop of our souls; but in Christ He is! Jesus is He who keeps us from going astray again.

Overseer: from the Greek word *episkopos* which means: "an Overseer, a superintendent, a ruler, a guardian." Derived from *epí* which means: "upon, or on" - and *skopos* which means: "look intently; thus a watchman." A Bishop, an Overseer, is someone who "looks intently upon, and watches over other persons; so as to guard and protect them."

Souls: from the Greek word *psychon*: the plural form of '*psyche*' which means: "the breath, or the soul; and variously means: the vital breath, breath of life, the human soul, the soul as the seat of affections and will, the self, a human person, an individual."

Within the context of this title, the sum of of these 'soul' definitions is embraced. Jesus is the Overseer and Gardian of our whole life, our whole being!

Just as a Shepherd watches over his sheep, so also Jesus oversees and guards the souls of those people whose Shepherd He is. How is Christ Jesus, the Bishop of so many souls throughout the whole world, able to keep us from going astray again? Consider these verses:

"**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;** teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

"For the law of **the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2)

"**And if Christ is in you,** the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells **in you,** He who raised up Christ from the dead **shall also make-alive your mortal bodies by His Spirit who dwells in you.**" (Romans 8:10-11)

"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; **but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds **in Christ Jesus.** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:4-8)

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Pg 2

"Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the power of His might. **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the scemes of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore put on you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**; And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**: Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Consider also these promises of Jesus:

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the Bread of Life: **he who comes to Me shall never hunger**; and **he who believes on Me shall never thirst...**; all who the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and those who come to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the Father's will who has sent Me, **that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise them up again on the last day**. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes on Him, may have everlasting life: and **I will raise them up on the last day**." (John 6:35-40)

"Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**. Take My yoke upon you, and **learn from Me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: **and you shall find rest for your souls**. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; **and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age**." (Matthew 28:16-20)

Jesus is...

the Overseer of Your (our) souls

Jesus is the Bishop of His spiritual sheep - us !!
Jesus always watches over His flock like a Good Shepherd ...
... through His Word, and through His indwelling Spirit;
even to the end of the age!

Lord Jesus, I thank You for being my spiritual Guide, Teacher, and and Master!
I thank You for being my Wonderful Counselor!
I thank You for Your promise to be with us always, even unto the end of the age!

Always and Always - Thank You Jesus!