

Shepherd and Overseer of Our Souls

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"Fear God. Honor the king; But if, when you do well, and suffer for it, you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even to this were you called; because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'who did no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth'** (Isaiah 53:9). Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him (to God the Father) who judges righteously. **Who 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 (Jesus) and Overseer of your souls.**" (1 Peter 1:17-25)

Shepherd: from the Greek word ***Poimena*** which means: a shepherd, a pastor, a herdsman, especially a shepherd who cares for sheep and leads them to green pastures and sources of water. In context: speaking of the Lord Jesus whom the Father has raised up to care for the total well-being of His flock: the church: the believers and followers of Jesus - the Good Shepherd. He feeds our souls with His word; He leads and guides us through His Holy Spirit.

Overseer: from the Greek word ***Episkopon*** which means: an overseer, a guardian; in context: Jesus 'watches over', and cares for, and guides, and teaches, and instructs believers in the way that the saints, the flock of God, should live in obedience to God's word, and the way of living life in Him in holiness.

Your Souls: from the Greek words ***psychon hymon*** which mean: your souls; yourselves. Soul: from ***psuche*** which means: someone's inner self, or inner being. The immaterial part of a person comprising mindful awareness of oneself, and the surrounding world. The vital life-force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing (i.e. the breath of life); that in which there is life; a living being; a living soul: a part of, and yet distinct from a person's spirit and physical body.

That Jesus is the Shepherd and Overseer of Our Souls: this is now a post resurrection attribute of Jesus; where He is now seated at the Right Hand of God the Father in Heaven. There in Heaven Jesus intercedes for His flock before the Father! There in Heaven He directs, guides, and speaks to us through His Holy Spirit. Through the record of His life in the sacred scriptures, and His teachings and doctrine, He leads us and makes His will known to us. As our Shepherd: Jesus and the Father, and the Holy Spirit are One! It is now, just as David wrote in the past:

"**The LORD is my Shepherd**; I shall not want. **He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness** for His Name's sake. Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for **You are with me; Your rod and thy staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**" (Psalms 23:1-67)

As sheep of the Flock of Christ Jesus, our souls were first purchased and redeemed by the Father through Jesus:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the **Church of God**, which **He (Jesus) has purchased with His own blood** (i.e. through His death on the Cross!)." (Acts 20:28:)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through various trials; so that the trial of **your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though **it** be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ; whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you do not see **Him**, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; receiving the end of **your faith, even the salvation of your souls**. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

"Forasmuch as you know that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, from your vain conduct received by tradition from your fathers; but (we were redeemed) with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot; who **truly** was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who **through Him** do believe in God, who raised **Him** up from the dead, and gave **Him** glory; so that **your faith** and hope might be in God." (1 Peter 1:18-21)

Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, and thus bringing to believers the salvation of our souls. And now Jesus is the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls forever and ever. The context is that of us being sheep who have gone astray, and need deliverance from sin; as it prophetically says:

"Surely **He (Jesus the Christ-Messiah)** has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem **Him** stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But **He** was wounded for our transgressions, **He** was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon **Him**; and with **His** stripes **we** are healed. **We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD (The Father) has laid on **Him** (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.**" (Isaiah 53:4-6)

And now in Heaven, Jesus shepherds, guides, & speaks to us through His Holy Spirit:

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments; and I will ask the Father, and He shall give you **another Comforter**, so that **He** may dwell with you **forever**; even the **Spirit of Truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see **Him**, nor know **Him**. But you know Him; for **He** dwells with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; **I will come to you**. Yet a little while, and the world sees **Me** no more; but you see **Me**; and because I live, you shall live also. At that day you shall know that **I am in My Father**, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.' Judas said unto him, not Iscariot, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself unto us, and not unto the world?' Jesus answered and said unto him, 'If a man loves Me, **he will keep my words**; and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our dwelling with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My sayings: and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you." (John 14:15-26)

“But when **He**, the **Spirit of Truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He** shall not speak of **Himself**; but whatsoever **He** shall hear, that shall **He** speak; and **He** will show you things to come.” (John 16:13)

And also now in Heaven Jesus intercedes for His flock before the Father:

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? **He (the Father)** who did not spare **His** own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; how shall **He** not with Him (with Jesus) also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who is risen again, and who is even at the Right Hand of God, and **who also intercedes for us**. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, '*For Your sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter* (Psalm 44:22).' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him** who loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, **which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!**" (Romans 8:31-39)

Through the record of His word in the sacred scriptures He also leads us and makes His will known to us for the good of our souls:

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say unto you, 'He who hears **My word**, and believes on Him (the Father) who sent Me, has Everlasting Life, and shall not come into condemnation; but has passed from death unto life.'" (John 5:24)

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man loves Me, he will keep **My words**: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make **Our home with him!**" (John 14:23)

Jesus, the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls is with us always:

"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto **Me** in Heaven and in earth. 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 whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, **I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen!**" (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus Is the Shepherd and Overseer of Our Souls

We, our souls, were first redeemed, and purchased through the shed blood of Jesus!

We, our souls, once we believed, and put our faith in Jesus, ...

... then we became His sheep – the flock of God !

Now, through His word, and through His Holy Spirit in us Jesus now shepherds us, and guides us, and oversees us from His exalted place at the Right Hand of the Father !

Thank You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit !!

Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in Your house forever and ever !!

Truly Truly !! Amen and Amen !!