

July 9, 2023

## Jesus, the Loving Shepherd

By Michael Hickox 2019

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
618-843-4684  
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall  
**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are Welcome*  
*We Offer Bible classes for All Ages*  
*We also offer in-home Bible Studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

In **John 10:11**, Jesus said, ***“I am the good shepherd, The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”***

Jesus often used sheep and shepherds to illustrate spiritual truths. One passage in which He did so in **John 10:1-18**. In this passage, Jesus described Himself as both the door to the sheep fold and the good shepherd.

To appreciate Jesus’ role as our shepherd, we must recognize our *need* for a shepherd. This involves accepting that we are, spiritually speaking, *sheep*.

Though we may not like comparing ourselves to sheep, we are like sheep, needing a trustworthy shepherd to lead us to *spiritual* security and safety.

This ties in with Jesus’ point that He is the door to the sheep fold (**John 10:7**). In **verse 9**, Jesus said, ***“I am the door. If anyone enters in by me, he will be saved, and will go in and go out, and will find pasture.”***

As the hymn *Jesus, the Loving Shepherd* says, “without is danger,” but in Christ, one is in “the fold of safety.” In Christ, we are spiritually provided for.

By referring to Himself as both the door to the sheep fold and the good

# Jesus, the Loving Shepherd (Cont'd)

shepherd, Jesus shows us that not only is He the One *in whom* we have safety, but He is also the One who *leads* us to safety.

Notice **John 10:3-4**. *The gatekeeper opens the gate for (the shepherd), and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. Whenever he brings out his own sheep he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.* These verses show us two ways in which our shepherd leads us.

He leads us, for one, by His words. As Jesus said, *“the sheep listen to (the shepherd’s) voice.”* We must obey the commands Jesus speaks to us through His word, looking to Him as our leader.

Jesus is contrasted with the false shepherds (“**strangers**”) **John 10:5** refers to. Jesus’ followers must approach spiritual matters with the right heart to properly distinguish between the deceiving “**voice**” of strangers, and the voice of the true shepherd.

Like an earthy shepherd, though, Jesus also leads by going before us (**John 10:4**). He has left us a perfect example to follow. Walking in Jesus’ steps is a theme of the New testament (**John 13:15; 1 Pet 2:21**). As sheep, we should follow the example Jesus has given us.

In describing Himself as the good shepherd, Jesus also expressed the care He has for His sheep.

While the “**thief**” of **John 10** only has selfish, greedy desires toward the sheep (**verse 10**), and the “**hired hand**” puts his own interests ahead of the sheep’s (**verses 12-13**), the good shepherd is different. Christ has laid down His life for the sheep (**verses 11, 15**).

**John 10:17-18** emphasizes Christ’s *willingness* to go to the cross. As Jesus implied in **Matthew 26:53**, He could have been sent more than twelve legions of angels to stop His enemies from crucifying Him, but He chose to go to the cross, in order that we might be saved.

We could not ask anything more of our great Shepherd. We should be appreciative of our shepherd’s protection, provision, and willingness to sacrifice Himself for us.

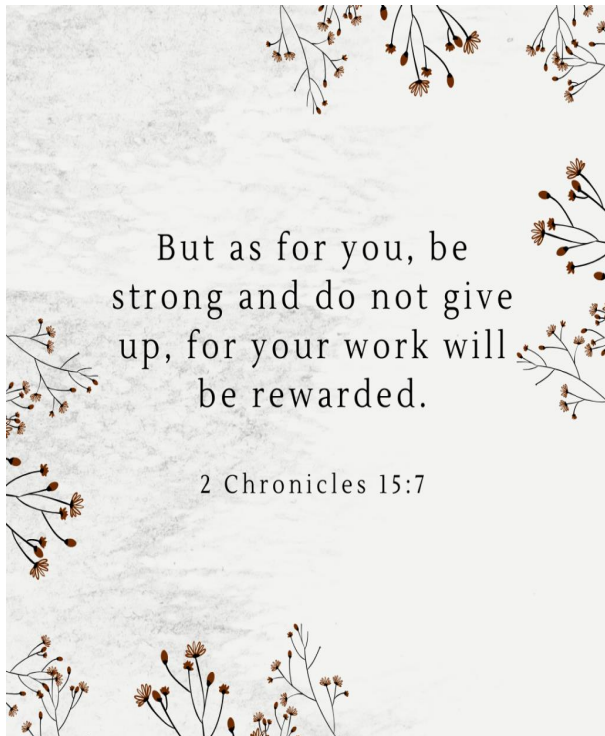
Furthermore, we should accept His provision by following Him with full trust that He knows what is best for us.

When we do so we can trust that we will be spiritually secure in the “fold of safety.” We can trust that no matter what persecutions or trials come our way, spiritual predators are nothing in comparison to our great Shepherd.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Prayer List

Holly Gerber  
Cheryl Smit  
Robert CantonwineNoti  
Doans' Grandson, Wilson  
Ken & Chris Fisher  
Nora & Her Family  
Larry Stivers (Surgery Recovery)  
Jerry Stivers (Heart Issues/Dialysis)  
Those Battling Cancer

## Daily Bible Reading

Jul 9: Job 38-40; Acts 16:1-21  
Jul 10: Job 41-42; Acts 16:22-40  
Jul 11: Ps 1-3; Acts 17:1-15  
Jul 12: Ps 4-6; Acts 17:16-34  
Jul 13: Ps 7-9; Acts 18  
Jul 14: Ps 10-12; Acts 19:1-20  
Jul 15: Ps 13-15; Acts 19:21-41  
Jul 16: Ps 16-17; Acts 20:1-16

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Bible Study: Jim

Worship: Douglas

Afternoon: Steve

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Darrell

### **Prepare Communion**

Jeanette

### **Clean Building**

Cynde

### **Preaching July 16, 2023**

AM – Ethan Jennings

PM – Ethan Jennings

### **Adult Bible Study Teachers**

Sunday – Dave      Wednesday - Mike

### **Assignments**

Sunday July 16, 2023

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Jeff

Table: Darrell

Serve: Jim

John

Mark

Roger

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Invitation: Roger

### **Anniversaries**

July – 11 Ethan & Lindsay Weber  
16 Darrell & Sidney Brinkley

### **Birthdays**

July – 12 Holly Gerber

12 Jessilyn Hall