

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

“THE CHIEF SHEPHERD”

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH...



## THE CHIEF SHEPHERD

Question: "Is it biblical for a man or a woman who is a leader over people that God has entrusted to them, to be called their Shepherd"?

If this is acceptable, show it from the scriptures. If not, show it from the scriptures. The point of all of this is to align ourselves with the word of the Lord, to lay aside the traditions of men, to forsake bad doctrine and teachings so that we can truly begin to experience a revival and refreshing from the Holy Spirit of God!

There are 43 occurrences of the word shepherd in the old and new testaments, beginning in Genesis and ending in 1 Peter, and most deal with the earthly or job title of different individuals who occupied that office. Just as most of the disciples were fishers, or fishermen, Paul, Pricilla and Aquila were tent makers, to be called a Shepherd indicated an occupation.

Without going to the Hebrew or Greek translation for the meaning of Shepherd, it is obvious that it comes from two words: "sheep" and "herd", or a herd of sheep. So one that watches over these sheep would be called a "sheep herder", or more simply, a "shepherd".

### Examples of Shepherds in scripture:

Genesis 46:32-34. 32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have.

33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?

34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Now we understand that the *True Shepherd* is the original owner of the sheep, and anyone who watches over the sheep in the absent of the True Shepherd is called an *hireling*.

Hireling is not a bad or degrading term; it is simply used to identify the position or occupation of the individual. A hireling is one who hires himself out for wages.

Let's look at what Jesus said in John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

John 10:11-13. 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose **own** the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

Jesus makes it very plain, He is the good shepherd, He alone gives His life for all, He alone has purchased our salvation. No man can compare himself with the holy, sinless, righteous Son of God!

The disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying, even as many of us sometimes do not understand, so He spoke very plainly to them and said: John 10:1-9.

10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his **own** sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And when he putteth forth his **own** sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus stated that He is the door of the sheep, He is the door, and that He is the good shepherd. Is it really a good idea to assign yourself a title that is exclusive to the Lord Jesus?

Let's look at Genesis 49:

Genesis 49:22-24. 22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:

24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the **shepherd**, the stone of Israel:) (Cross reference with Psalms 80:1)

Psalms 80:1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Ecclesiastes 12:11. 11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from **one** shepherd.

Ezekiel 34:23. 23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

Don't be confused, in the natural sense David did reign over Israel as king. But out of what lineage did Messiah come? Remember when the blind man cried out to Jesus; what did he call Him, "thou son of David". The blind man understood the lineage of the Messiah. We

know that Jesus was not the natural son of David, but the only begotten Son of the Living God! This is why understanding the scriptures are so very important.

Hebrews 13:20. 20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **great shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Peter 2:25. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the **Shepherd** and Bishop of your souls.

So what should be the proper title for someone that is leader over the people of God? Well, we have examples; Leaders, Elders, Pastors, Let's look at 1 Peter 5:1-2.

5:1 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;

Acts 20:28. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

According to 1 Corinthians the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, and also here we see that it is the Holy Spirit that gives gifts, and none of those gifts mentioned are called shepherd, nor under-shepherd. To be called Shepherd indicates someone has total dependence upon you, that you are the giver and the source of all sustenance. As David said: "The Lord is **my Shepherd**, I shall not want". It is a very dangerous thing for anyone to acquire a position, (knowingly or out of ignorance) that is reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Peace in Christ Jesus;  
Brother Michael Williams Sr.