

"He Leadeth Me In The Paths Of Righteousness"

Guidance in Growth

Introduction:

1. The word for 'leadeth' means, "To lead, guide, bring, or govern."
2. It has been demonstrated clearly that sheep need guidance from a shepherd.
3. However, it must be the right kind of leadership on the right path in the right direction.
4. Only a Good Shepherd can provide guidance in growth...

I. The Path of Pardon

- A. Biblically, righteousness is closely related to justification – pardon from one's sins.
- B. Righteousness is revealed in the Gospel (Rom. 1:16-17) and is only available by means of the blood of Jesus (Rom. 3:21-26).
- C. Jesus is the only Way to salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

II. The Road of Right

- A. To be lead in righteousness also means to be guided in doing right.
- B. The Lord will lead us on the Way of Holiness (Isa. 35:8-10).
- C. It is a strait and narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14).
- D. The destination at the end of the Road of Right is Heaven!

III. The Way of Wisdom

- A. As important as these things are, it must be noted that David wrote of "paths" of righteousness – not just one, but many.
- B. This is something a shepherd could understand.
 1. Left to themselves, sheep will walk the same path until it becomes a rut and graze the same field until it becomes barren and destroyed.
 2. They must be led on alternating right paths to good ground.
- C. For many Christians, their faith and religion have become ruts producing only barrenness and want.
 1. Worse, they think this is how it is supposed to be when walking the "strait and narrow" way.
 2. Yet, the Good Shepherd came to give abundant life (John 10:9-10)!
- D. There is only one way to salvation and Heaven, but there are many paths to walk in the Christian life.
 1. The path of growth...
 2. The path of service...
- E. One day, the Good Shepherd will ask what we have done with our talents (Matt. 25:14-30).