**One Flock and One Shepherd**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read John 10:16.
2. There is quite a bit revealed in this chapter about both the one flock and one shepherd, so let’s see what we can learn about each.
3. But before we do that, let’s make a general observation. Is this what we have today, with all the different denominations and doctrines?

**BODY:**

1. So with which one should we begin? We wouldn’t have the one flock without the one shepherd, so let’s begin with Him.
	1. He’s the only one qualified to be the Shepherd of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).
		1. We see that in vv. 1-3, right? Emphasizing His credentials over anyone else?
		2. Jewish rulers wanted so badly to be shepherds, but they proved how miserable they were in previous chapter? (Cast out the blind man for doing nothing but telling the truth).
		3. What he said to those who challenged His credentials: vv. 25, 37-38.
		4. One shepherd is not Mohammed, Buddha, Joseph Smith, Watchtower Society, various creeds and manuals of different denominations, even our elders.
	2. Laid down His life for His sheep.
		1. Unlike the hireling who flees at the first sight of danger.
		2. Read v. 39 first (powerless to take Him until He was ready), then vv. 17-18.
		3. “Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:38).
	3. Knows His sheep, calls them by name.
		1. Calls them by name (v. 3); knows them (vv. 14, 27).
		2. 2 Timothy 2:19: “The Lord knows those who are His.”
		3. And what does He do with our names? Writes them in what the Scriptures call the Book of Life (Phil. 4:3; 7 times in Revelation).
		4. Psalms 139 reveals just how intimate His knowledge is of us.
	4. Leads His sheep—by “voice” and by example.
		1. Three times they “hear” or “know” His voice (vv. 4, 16, 27)—referring, of course, to His teaching.
		2. But, He didn’t just voice the truth, He came to this earth and lived it, and He did so perfectly, and at great cost to Himself. Hasn’t asked us to do anything He hasn’t done Himself.
		3. “He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name’s sake (Psalms 23:2-3).
	5. Not only saves them, but preserves and protects them.
		1. Read vv. 27-29.
		2. Luke 22:31-32: “Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”
		3. Hebrews 7:25: “He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them**.”
2. Now, to the flock.
	1. Includes all those who have entered through the door (Jesus).
		1. Verse 9—Can’t be saved, can’t be part of the one flock unless we enter through the door.
		2. If He is the door, then He sets the terms of admission.
	2. Those who know Him and are known by Him.
		1. Verse 14.
		2. Let’s be careful here; let’s not automatically assume this is the case with us.
			1. Matthew 7:21-23.
	3. Those who follow His “voice” and example.
		1. Following His lead is expressed in vv. 4, 27.
		2. Easy enough, right?
			1. Ready for the insults? v. 20.
			2. Ready for the hatred?
	4. Those who “by no means follow a stranger.”
		1. Verse 5.
		2. That’s why those Bereans in Acts 17:11 were so noble—searched the Scriptures daily to make sure they were listening to a “stranger.”
		3. The lone voice of authority is Jesus Christ.
	5. Those who enjoy His many blessings.
		1. Verses 9-10.
			1. “He makes me to lie down in green pastures” (Psalms 23:2).
			2. Salvation, adoption into God’s family, joy, peace, contentment, etc.
		2. His blessings include the preservation and protection we talked about earlier.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Read Psalms 23.