

Week of June 26, 2016

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep and rose triumphantly from the grave to secure them in his eternal love.

This Week's Text: John 10:11-21

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." **Hebrews 13:20**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- In John 10, what parable does Jesus use to communicate spiritual truths? What does Jesus call himself in verse 11? How does the statement, "I am the good shepherd" reveal Jesus' deity? Reference Exodus 3:13-14 and Ezekiel 34:1-16. How does it reveal his eternal preeminence and exclusive authority?
- How is Jesus different from the "hired hands" that masquerade as shepherds? According to verse 11, what did the good shepherd, Jesus, come to do? What did Jesus' death accomplish for his sheep? Discuss the significance of the word "for" (use words such as atonement, substitute, sacrifice, determination/intentionality).
- Why did Jesus lay down his life for his sheep? References verses 13-15. What does it mean that our relationship with Jesus mirrors his relationship with God the Father? Do you realize the extent of Jesus' love for you? Does meditating on the gospel produce in you a desire to grow in relationship with Jesus?
- What did Jesus mean that there are "other sheep that are not of this fold"? Reference Galatians 3:28. Who is the one flock that Jesus' references in verse 16, and where are they from? Reference Ephesians 2:11-16.

- How did Jesus display to the world the mutual, eternal love between him and the Father?
 What does Jesus' resurrection from the dead reveal to us about Jesus' identity?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?