

The Reformation & Revival Letter

TRUE SHEPHERDS OF THE SHEEP Minister R. Thomas Lambur

Ps 95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

1Pet. 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear...

The word establishes believers as sheep and Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. All spiritual leaders who represent Him are therefore under-shepherds if they are legitimately honoring their sacred trust with the Lord through His word.

1Tim. 1:11-12 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

Col. 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God

This is a sacred trust between the Lord and His shepherds for the sole purpose of establishing His will on behalf of His people. It truly is not their ministry although they are accountable for the overseeing of it.

This sacred trust includes the oversight to preach, teach His people according to right teaching.

1Tim. 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness...

People can rightly discern and qualify the true shepherd who is set part from all counterfeits because he is teaching according to godliness or holiness!

Phil. 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Open leaders admit readily to their own flaws, even though flawed they are genuine in their personal pursuit and desires to follow Jesus.

1Sam. 13:14 But now thy kingdom (Saul) shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart...(speaking of David)

While King Saul's leadership failed through his ego and his disobedience, David, though flawed, yet found favor with God because he was a man who possessed a hunger after the Lord, after the Lord's own heart...a quality found in true shepherds.

1Corin. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Paul says, "Follow me as I am following our Lord." So the best followers make the best leaders. True shepherds are to be imitators of the Chief Shepherd of the flock.

There are different words associated with spiritual leadership which may come into play in carrying out the functions of the ministry like: bishop, which means superintendent; presbyter, which means spiritual elder; and priest which means father which is a term that was rejected by Jesus.

Matt. 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi (Father): for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

Preacher means orator. Rector means minister (the ministry of all believers in the body) and finally, Shepherd is the one title that the Lord chose for Himself.

The Chief Shepherd and His Under-Shepherds

John 10 lays out for us that Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd and that as spiritual leaders, we are to follow in His example.

Jn. 10:11-15 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 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. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He quickly establishes for us that He is a true shepherd of the sheep which cares for them, nurtures and protects them. This is contrasted with His exposure of the nature of the hired shepherds (hirelings), which He tells us CARE NOT FOR HIS SHEEP. Yet in comparison, the true under-shepherds tend and defend the Lord's flock, honoring the Chief Shepherd, even to the laying down of their own lives!

Jesus calls us to really discern here the nature of Himself and those who He calls to be under-shepherds. In another passage He tells us that false prophets are in the guise of ministers and sheep, and will emulate sheep, but have natures that are ravening and devious.

Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Moreover, the Old Testament also reveals the nature of men who are not really shepherds, having not a shepherd's heart, but pasture themselves upon the sheep.

Ezek. 34:10-14 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them. For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will

feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

2Pet. 2:3 And through covetousness shall they (exploit) with feigned (deceptive) words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The Regathering – Gathering unto the Chief Shepherd and His Under-Shepherds
Ezek. 34:23-24 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. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

The word of God prophetically looks forward to the time when Jesus would be our Shepherd. Here, it is calling the flock to recognize that the Lord has provide a shepherd which will not exploit them, but will respect the Lord's ministry as a sacred trust.

The Nature Of True Under-Shepherds

This is very easy to discern. Just look at Jesus in the Scriptures. He is our example. The nature of a real shepherd is revealed through their attendance to the sheep as in John 10. Today we have *not* shepherds leading the sheep in many churches; what we have are ranchers! Ranchers are cattlemen which drive the cattle to market. Instead of tending to the flock and feeding them, ranchers push the sheep and drive them. This leader is not a shepherd. Ranchers' goals are not to lead, but to drive, with marketing those sheep as the end result. Shepherds' motives are about caring, nurturing, spiritual growth, maturity, and evangelism in the gospel, not about how much they can prosper off the sheep as cattlemen.

True Shepherds Feed His Sheep

Jn. 10:9 ...and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jn. 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Feeding the sheep is their care... They are the Lord's sheep and if a shepherd really has a love for the Lord he will love and care of the Lord's flock.

1Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

True shepherds have their own words anchored in His Word. Paul says that the believers have recognized that His words are founded in Jesus Christ, which has given them His truth actively working in the hearts of those who believed.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

True shepherds are open and read to have their teachings compared by believers to Scripture, knowing that the Scriptures themselves build and develop the individual's own faith. It is easier to follow a man than to follow Jesus. This is what Paul commends in his meaning by calling these *more spiritually noble* than others he has formerly preached to.

Contrast – The False Shepherds

Jerm. 8:11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

The word tells us that false shepherds do not take care of the sheep. When they need to be healed, false shepherds do not wait upon the Lord for the anointing to meet the level of need. No, false shepherds just speak with words of empty comfort, no anointing... just pure religious jargon.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity (love), when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear (without the fear of the Lord): clouds they are without water...

They carry nothing with them on the inside because they haven't been waiting in the presence of the Lord.

The Vineyard & New Administrations (The Lord's Dictum)

Matt. 21:33-44 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Here, we have underlined some important points in the Lord's pronouncement of a change of administration. First, the vineyard is that of His ministry and represents His property which has been rented out to the vinedressers, which are renters and beholden to

Him in the ministry. The owner of His vineyard (His ministry) has sent out the prophets of which have been mistreated and killed for their utterance. The prophets delivered a message from their master of which He calls the tenets to yield to Him the fruits of the vineyard (His ministry). This did not happen. After all the prophet messengers had been throw-out, the tenets (those that represent pastors after themselves and not the Lord) desirous to have the ministry for themselves, killed the Son of God, Jesus Himself. This is speaking directly of the Pharisees actions. Yet in truth, also represents every minister who has taken advantage of their position in honoring themselves and not honoring the Lord in ministry.

Please understand this truth in reformation and in the taking away and assignments in new administrations... The Lord's Will is inseparable from His spiritual and governing authority over His church.

The Lord said of Moses;

Numb. 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Numb. 27:14 For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

Moses and Aaron did what they pleased and did not the Lord's will before the people. As an example to the people of God in the Lord's ministry, ministers must have a heart to yield to the Lord and His desires in the way of His leadings for doing the work of the ministry.

The reference to the Kingdom of God must be noted in the above passage because it explains that the church is to be carrying out the work of the Kingdom of God on earth. Whenever the ministry goes astray from carrying out this will of God on earth the Lord starts looking for a another administration to carry out His work.

Matt.21 Taken from you and given to another... This statement by our Lord assures the new administration of its power to function rightfully carrying out their Lord's will in the earth.

Sound Wisdom About The Lord's Plantings

Matt. 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Acts 5:38-39 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

So numerous have been those in different movements to try to stop the Spirit of God in His creations of new administration to carry out His Kingdom work, that we could hardly

list them all. However, God protects His planting as it grows up and reaches out in doing His will in the earth.

Rev. 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Ministry assignments from our Lord sometime come without any signs of moral support from the people, yet, they are still encouraged to grow from the Lord because they are His WILL!

Isa. 50:7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Overcoming Among Challenging Opposition

Isa. 65:2 I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Nehem. 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

These men were opposed to the rebuilding of the wall. They cared nothing for the things of God or for the children of Israel.

Phil. 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Becoming Men Of Whom There Is No Price! – Allegiance

Lk. 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Gal. 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

I have heard many man persuaders... they have no anointing... no unction... they are YES MEN! I have seen true servants of God stand where no other man would because of the high cost; they are men to whom the world is not worthy!

Jn. 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Our affection for the Lord translates into serving Him, placing Him above the congregation in our service. We may not feel comfortable in the delivery of the Lord's messages, but if we truly know and have affection for Him, we will realize His affection for His flock and us. Men pleasers are always self-centered, self-gratifying, and in it for the gain of men and of money.

Prophecy Wars – The Conflicts Of Utterance And Service!

Jerm. 28:10-12,14 Then Hananiah (the false prophet) the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake it. And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD;

A False Prophecy Given...

Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years.

And the prophet Jeremiah went his way. Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him; and I have given him the beasts of the field also.

Jerm. 28:15-17 Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; (((The LORD hath not sent thee))); but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.

The Lord takes very seriously those who cause the people to believe falsely. All false prophecy has its roots in a man-pleasing spirit, placing its allegiance for man over that of the will of God. Any time there is something new from God, there is always those who decide to appose it. They choose sides and then the conflict comes out. Man-pleasing leaders choose to place their allegiance in themselves and not God. False prophets speak a message to an eager hungry people who think he is speaking from God. Yet, for those who listen, and do not discern their words, it becomes a means to redirect them to the ambitions of men. This is to gain the upper-hand in spiritual affairs, and in reality, they are warring with God over His will and plans. Judgment is the just reward in this conflict of these men. Their constant persistent and warring resistance against the Lord ends in falling into the hands of *an angry God*.

Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Rev. 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

I have personally witnessed a two ministers who died for resisting and not obeying the Lord and His will for the church.

Lying Words & False Prophets – The Lord's Test Of The Heart!

Deut. 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Lord's test of the heart of men is that He sees if people can be drawn away from Him by the false prophet who is speaking.

Jerm. 7:8-14 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD. But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

Trusting in lying words is always by a lying spirit. False prophets have merged with false teachings and have spirits that are motivating them to lead men astray from the Lord.

1Kgs. 22:20-23 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

Here, the Lord is speaking to the lying spirit that is ready to deceive those whom will listen.

1Tim. 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2Tim. 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears

Lust in these from *the demonic* is the main driving force and motive in their gathering of themselves together to justify and reinforce the false teachings that they have embraced.

Personal Life Assignment to the Kingdom's Work

Jerm. 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

God had something that He wanted done and that is His reason why He sent you.

Jn. 13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God

Callings and assignments come from the Lord.

Jn. 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Spiritual impartations from the anointing, which are given from heaven, by His Spirit, reside with the person who receives their calling and assignments. So you are to carry your mission inside of you and go live it out!

Jn. 21:20-22 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Peter is rebuked here by Jesus because there are no spiritual Popes in the body. There is only Jesus who we are all to answer to! Jesus is the head of the church. Sorry, Peter. We just didn't need another Jesus. I'm sure after this he came to understand that.

Rom. 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Everyone has a calling and ministry. Many times we are personally assigned by Jesus through prophetic leadership as Paul was. Our role is to fulfill His will as an individual as well as in the overall structure in the body of Christ (the church). The individual is a mosaic part of the whole body in his gifts and function, doing his assignment. Leadership plays a part of this role in helping facilitate them along with the other working members of the body so they might supply and work together doing God's will in the earth.

Eph. 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying (building up) of itself in love.

Measure and Reach

2Corin. 10:14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

Assignments from the Lord have their *scope* and also *limitations*. Each of us are single parts of the whole and not the whole itself. We are not an island, and yet many times we are called into the persevering and furtherance of the Lord's will *against the current tide of opposition*. Paul above tells us our assignment has a definite scope, a space for its operation.

Prov. 18:16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

We need to understand that the functioning of the gift means *the anointing* produces the ministry. So when we *get in* and *start to move forward*, the gift produces and the anointing flows in the direction of God's will, producing the fruit of ministry.

2Tim. 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

The full proof of the ministry that Paul is talking about here comes about as we function in our assignment. The fruit is PROOF!

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Heb. 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

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