

## **NO Sheep / Flock = No Pastors / Shepherds**

Some people may wish that this issue would go away .... but I intend to keep it right where WE, as the teachers of right division, are: at the front of the "grace movement." We've given a lot of focus on the believers identity in Christ, .... yet WE, the bishops, have lost our OWN identity! What a tragedy! This issue has to do with who WE (the teachers) are .... by what title WE are called .... by what name WE identify ourselves.

We don't teach our assembly that they are a "flock" of God's "sheep" because, metaphorically, those are terms that God used relating to His people Israel. There is therefore no logical reason for us to retreat to the metaphorical term of a shepherd, which is the word "pastor."

This is not an issue of our attire -- whether we wear a hat, a collar, a robe, a gown, a necktie, or a suit -- but it is a "word" issue .... a KJV word.

This is not a personal issue of liberty -- to just call yourself whatever you choose -- but it is a "KJV" issue, which some of us grace believers claim to stand in defense of. If we say we are KJV, yet dodge the KJV word for the "bishop" of our church .... then, in practice and reality, we are not wholly what we claim to be. Whether a man commits adultery on his wife with one harlot or with alot of whores .... doesn't change the fact that he is unfaithful. It may be different degrees, but the offense is the same. Likewise, if we profess we are KJV, and we demonstrate that MOST of the time, yet if we prefer the word "pastor" in lieu of "bishop," then we prove by our

own application, that we are disloyal on the KJV word for the office.

We who profess the KJV to be “the very words of God,” should not desert certain words we don’t like. Let us not be prejudiced. Let us not change certain words because of popular opinions, educated scholars, demographics, or religious traditions.

Just because some denominations misuse any word does not give us cause nor reason to avoid using a word from our KJV Bible correctly. Some good Catholics can achieve “saint” status, yet we still call ourselves saints, don’t we? Catholics show Jesus hanging on a cross, but that doesn’t stop us from preaching the truth of the cross the right way, does it?

Yet, on the other hand, just because protestant religions have for many years (and still do) refer to their leaders as “pastors” does not mean that we should follow them in their error, especially when we have a clear verse that specifically corrects that terminology.

**1 Tim 3:1** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

We are not overseers of “sheep,” which is what pastors / shepherds are.

Rather, we are overseers of ambassadors!

People have to depart from the KJV, and follow to The Living Bible, traditions of men, or others in error .... to pick up the erroneous thought that a “pastor” is the leader of the local church assembly today ... because we don’t learn it from the scriptures. We just read 1 Tim. 3:1.

The Spirit of God does not teach us to use the word "pastor" for the overseer of the church in this dispensation .... if you use it, you're doing so in the flesh .... because we DO have a verse in our KJV Bible that DOES specifically say "the very word" the man who fills that office is to be called:

**1 Tim 3:1** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Saying something in ignorance or by slip of tongue is very different from being fully aware of what a verse says, and yet boycott a KJV word.

Satan works in the arena of religion. He deceives by corrupting the pure words of God .... by providing English-speaking people with incorrect Bible versions. The KJV is no longer the popular Bible on the market today.

Another way the devil deceives is to persuade people, living in the dispensation of grace, to apply scriptures that fit in previous or future times .... things that were in the same program, which was for Israel, God's sheep, but that phased out after the completion of the scriptures.

Sadly, many so-called pastors in mainstream denominations hold to incorrect doctrines:

- Some think they're born again.
- Some require water baptism for salvation or obedience.
- Some claim to be apostles and prophets.
- Some say they're speaking in tongues.
- Some call their leaders pastors.
- Some feel they are God's sheep.
- Some follow the Great Commission.
- Some live by the be-attitudes.
- Some pray the Lord's prayer.
- Some tithe and expect harvest blessings.      •and many more issues.

Paul was an apostle; he was water baptized; he had gifts of miracles (physical healings, tongues, power to raise the dead, prophecies, etc.); yet we understand by right division that those things passed away.

Just because some things were in operation during the time of Israel's diminishing, and the Body of Christ's beginning, does not mean that they were to continue indefinitely into our program. If we've blown out a match, that doesn't qualify us to list our occupation on an application as a fire-fighter. You shouldn't call yourself an over-the-road truck driver because you borrowed your neighbor's pick-up truck and took a load of trash to the dump.

Isn't it just like the angel of light to divert the "bishops" into calling themselves "pastors." The bishops have the lead of the army, marching out front, but they're carrying the wrong banner! What a crafty ploy of Satan to mock the leaders of God's soldiers! They are supposed to be setting the example! We, grace teachers, don't have another Jesus, or another Spirit, or another gospel --- but we've followed tradition, rather than the Word of God (the KJV) --- and we've picked up "another office!"

Anyone who thinks the function of pastor still goes on, but the special gift has ceased, is completely fabricating that idea, because they don't have a verse to tell them that. The gifts Jesus gave when He ascended on high, as recorded in Eph 4:11, were ALL in the same package.

ALL those gifts are gone today.

There is NO VERSE at all .... in the KJV .... that says ANYTHING at all

• about a “pastor” • the “work” of a pastor or • the “function” of a pastor, still going on today.

We must go to the Word of God (the KJV), rightly divided, to find out

- what IS supposed to function in the church today ....
- and WHO is supposed to DO it:

Faithful **MEN** are supposed to teach:

**2 Tim 2:2** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men, who shall be able to teach** others also.

The faithful men who are supposed to teach **are to be called “BISHOPS”**:

**1 Tim 3:2** A **bishop** then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach**;

**Tit 1:7-9** For a **bishop** must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the **faithful word as he hath been taught**, that **he may be able** by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

The **BISHOPS** are to be:

- #1 - men
- #2 - the teachers
- #3 - among the ruling elders:

**1 Tim 3:4,5** (A **bishop**, from 1 Tim. 3:verse 2, must be) **One that ruleth** well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;  
5 (For if a man know not **how to rule** his own house, how shall he **take care of the church of God**?)

It doesn't matter how many business cards or letterhead have "pastor" printed on them --- it would be a good way to start a conversation about right division, to mark it out and replace it with the word "bishop."

This issue is about what we call our church leaders --- and we "right-dividing, grace believers," of ALL people --- should have it RIGHT! It is not a "side" issue .... nor is it irrelevant.

Now, we'll get into the title of tonight's message:

### **No Sheep / Flock = No Pastors / Shepherds**

First, we'll see that the Lord Jesus is Israel's Shepherd.

Probably the most famous of the Psalms, written for Israel, says:

**Psa 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

The epistle of the Hebrews .... written to the Hebrews .... told the Hebrews (that is, God's sheep) .... that Jesus is their Great Shepherd:

**Heb 13:20** 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,

John records Jesus speaking and declaring Himself to be Israel's shepherd:

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

.... And again:

**John 10:14** **I am the good shepherd**, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Secondly, let's see that Israel is God's people, His sheep, His flock:

**Psa 78:52** But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

**Psa 79:13** So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

**Psa 95:7** For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

**Psa 100:3** Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Isa 40:11** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Thirdly, God's sheep were scattered:

**2 Chron 18:16** Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace.

**Jer 23:1** Woe be unto the pastors (that's the same word also translated "shepherds") that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

**Jer 50:17** Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.

**Ezek 34:6** My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

James, Peter, and John all wrote to Israel:

**Gal 2:9** And when James, Cephas (identified as Simon Peter in John 1:42), and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

The 1st verse of both James and Peter address their epistles to scattered Israel:

**James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

**1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Peter proclaimed Christ as both Shepherd and Bishop for Israel:

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

When Jesus commissioned His 12 disciples to be apostles, He told them specifically to minister to His sheep, Israel:

**Matt 10:5,6** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

In John 21:15-17, Jesus told Simon Peter to feed His lambs, and He told him twice to feed His sheep.

Yes, Christ Himself only came to minister to His sheep, Israel:

**Matt 15:24** But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Salvation was offered to Zacchaeus because he was one of God's sheep:

**Luke 19:9,10** And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (referencing the previous verse Matt 15:24, that would be Israel)

**John 10:7** Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

Paul's writings also testify that Jesus was sent to Israel:

**Rom 15:8** Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

The reason John the Baptist was water baptizing, was to show Israel

Who their Shepherd was:

**John 1:31** And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

It is important for us to realize that Israel was divided.

For about 389 years, the "whole" house of Israel split into 2 sections:

- The "northern" kingdom, called Israel, were 10 tribes, with no religious center.
- The "southern" kingdom, known as Judah, were 2 tribes, being Benjamin and Judah, and whose capital remained to be Jerusalem (Josh 18:28).

God mentioned both groups, when He promised to replace their Old

Covenant with a New one:

**Jer 31:31** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant

- with the house of Israel,
- and with the house of Judah:

The sheep of Israel were also classified as divided by ....

- those who remained in their homeland
- and those who were dispersed all over the world.

You can see that distinction between them explained 2 distinct times in the same verse:

**Dan 9:7** O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day;

- to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
- and unto all Israel,
  - that are near,
  - and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

Some of God's scattered sheep had returned to live in Jerusalem during Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on them:

**Acts 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

The geographical distinction was also mentioned then, when Peter preached to Israel, still including their water baptism program:

**Acts 2:38,39** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is

- unto you, and to your children,
- and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Another distinction described the house of Israel as a vineyard, where

- the apostate, unbelieving Israelites are "wild grapes" in Isa 5:1-7.

The believers are viewed by the unbelievers as

- a "foolish" nation in Deut 32:19-21 and Rom 10:19.

The believers are called

- a "righteous" nation in Isa 26:2.
- the "holy flock" in Isa 36:38.
- the "little flock" in:

**Luke 12:32** Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Jesus prophesied that the hypocritical, religious leaders would lose the kingdom, and it would be rewarded to the "faithful":

**Matt 21:42-45** 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?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to **a nation** (that would be the "believing, little, holy flock" of Israel) bringing forth the fruits thereof.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

The division can be seen between believing and unbelieving Israelites:

**Heb 4:2,3** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

In the next passage, main-line denominational preachers say that we Gentiles are the "other sheep" .... but that is not so. Whether they were north or south, near or far, believing or unbelieving .... ISRAEL, and never anyone else, were always called God's sheep:

**John 10:15,16** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Regardless of "who" you think the "other sheep" may be .... one thing is for certain: They are SHEEP, and as such, they must be of Israel, not Gentiles.

One day God will regather Israel, His scattered sheep:

**Ezek 34:11-16** For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

12 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.

13 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.

14 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.

15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.

16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

There will be one shepherd over the one fold:

**Ezek 34:23-26** And I will set up one shepherd ("raah" the Hebrew word also translated pastor) over them, and he shall feed ("raah" the Hebrew word also translated pastor) them, even my servant David; he shall feed ("raah" the Hebrew word also translated pastor) them, and he shall be their shepherd ("raah" the Hebrew word also translated pastor).

24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.

25 And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Those are like the promises made in the 23rd Psalm, that apply the sheep:

**Psa 23:2** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

God will remove the unbelieving Jews from their land, and plant the faithful there:

**Ezek 20:37,38,40-42** And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

38 And **I will purge out from among you the rebels**, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

42 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

The "all Israel" .... will be the "righteous nation" .... the "little, holy flock":

**Rom 11:26,27** And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

That will happen in the future, when Christ returns to earth to set up His kingdom and authority in Jerusalem.

But for now, in the dispensation of grace .... there are no more sheep, because the distinction between Israel and Gentiles no longer exists:

**Rom 3:21,22** **But now** the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

**Gal 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

In Time Past, Israel was "near" to God:

**Deut 4:7** For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

God's covenant relationship with israel made them different from the rest of the world. Balaam said of Israel:

**Num 23:9** For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

Their flesh was marked with a token of circumcision to brand them as distinct from all other nations (Gen 17:10-14).

In Time Past, whereas Israel was "nigh" to God and Gentiles were "far off" .... "now" we Gentiles are "near":

**Eph 2:11-13** Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

The wall of separation between Jew and Gentile was broken down by the cross .... with Paul's ministry:

**Eph 2:14-17** For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

When there are no more sheep or flocks ....

then, obviously and logically, there are no more pastors or shepherds.

If Gentiles are not / were not sheep or flocks .... (and we aren't)

then we don't / didn't need pastors or shepherds.

When Paul one time penned the word "pastors" .... it was included in a grouped package of 5 special gifts that Christ gave to men when He ascended on high ....

By the way, Paul used the words "apostles" and "prophets" a whole lot more times than the one time he wrote the word "pastor." We would rightly reject any man's claims that he was an "apostle" or "prophet" today .... yet we have been guilty of letting all the "pastors" slide.

**Just because Paul mentioned the word "pastors" once .... does not give us liberty to automatically assign a title of "pastor" to the preacher in a local church assembly today.**

**We were never instructed to call any man a "pastor" for today.** However, there is a word we ARE told that a man is, who fills that office. It is a "bishop" .... and we KJVers should use it:

**1 Tim 3:1** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a **bishop**, he desireth a good work.

Isn't it strange that people don't change the office of a "deacon" in 1 Tim 3:8,10, and 13?

Even though the word "bishop" was also used in Jewish settings, as were "elder" and "elders" .... nevertheless, the word "bishop" is the word that is specifically the CORRECT noun for us to use .... in Paul's epistles in 1 Tim. 3:1,2 and Titus 1:7.

Therefore, what has been called by man-made doctrine "Pastorial Epistles" .... should actually be called "Episcopal Epistles."

I believe it is a double-standard to defend the word "dispensation" .... but not the word for the office of a "bishop" --- which is a good work!

There are "rightly-dividing, grace" websites that have charts showing "omitted words and verses" from various versions of the Bible. Yet they omit the use of the word "bishop" found in the KJV .... which has been changed to a word that is not for this dispensation, which word pertains to sheep (Israel), that is, the word "pastor" in The Living Bible. Shame on anyone who does that (2 Tim 2:15)! They have no right tampering with the Word of God and not standing for the truth.

I want to say one more time, that the word "pastor" is mis-used today, because it is not for this dispensation. If we have pastors, then make room for the apostles and prophets.

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"*