

## Relationship Basics

**Relationships In General:** They involve respect and communication.

### Relationship With God:

- We listen to God *through His word:* **2 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is inspired by God [God-breathed]..."
- We speak to God *through prayer:* **1 Timothy 2:5** "...there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, *the man* Christ Jesus..."

### Relationship Routine Suggestions:

- See the [Daily Devotion brochure](#) – for encouragement and my method.
- See the [Christian brochure](#) – for references to **49 of the most important passages in the Bible!** Each day: Read one, then talk to God!

## Seeking FIRST God's Kingdom

- **Matthew 6:33** "...seek first [God's] kingdom and His righteousness..." // Let us **Stop** letting the temporary things of this life ➔hinder or ➔destroy our membership in God's kingdom!
- **Luke 9:23** ... [Jesus said to His disciples], "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself** and **take up his cross daily** and **follow Me.**" // **Deny, take, and follow** – those are radical things! Jesus said that only a few will be saved: **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is

narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." By God's grace, **LET US BE AMONG THE FEW!**

## The Order of Faith and Works

### Ephesians 2:8-10

- **Faith:** "For by grace [God's undeserved favor] you have been saved through faith [trust in Jesus for eternal life]; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- **Works:** For we are [God's] workmanship, [He] created [us] in Christ Jesus for [the purpose of] good works, which [He] prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." // **Let's do it!**

## God Is Calling Us To...

- Have a daily conversation with Him – through Bible reading and prayer!
- Keep Jesus first – by saying **NO** to our will and **YES** to His will, even when it is difficult and brings persecution.
- Continue as Jesus' repentant sheep – with ➔godly sorrow, ➔trust in Jesus for eternal life, and ➔lives that align with God's word!
- Respond to the teaching of the under-shepherd – **hearing, understanding, believing, and applying** God's word!
- Seek and do what He has planned – for each of our lives!

**I Want YOUR BEST** – now and forever! **You are invited to respond to the contents of this brochure** – see the next page! Pastor [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

## How Can I Help You?

You are invited to ➔send me a text or email, ➔hand me a note, or ➔mail this section.

- This is my prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor  Prayer Multiplier  Prayer List
- This is my question: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This is my outreach idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This is my improvement idea: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This is how I am willing to serve: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Help me find a church closer to home.
- Contact me to discuss my Bethlehem membership situation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Version

## Connect With Us

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com)

**YouTube:** "Benefit from the Bible"

**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Parma"

**Saturdays:** Class 3:00; Service 4:00

**Sundays:** Service 9:00; Classes 10:30

7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134 / 440-845-2230

(Last Update: 9-25)

# Shepherding the Sheep



*At Bethlehem Parma*

## Introduction

**Dear Friends:** **JESUS** is the Good Shepherd – He ➔lived for us, ➔laid down His life for us, and ➔was raised victorious! He is the **only way to heaven for you, for me, for all!** Study **Acts 4:12** and this image:

### Acts 4:12 – Jesus Is the ONLY Way!



Old Testament

New Testament

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12 NAS-95).

**Please keep reading to better understand**

➔my role in your life and ➔the great importance for **me and you** to **keep** ➔trusting in Jesus, ➔doing God's word, and ➔living in continual repentance!

## Welcome to My World

Many years ago, I faithfully attended church and Bible Class, served as an usher, and thought I was a Christian. Then, in my later 20's – by the Holy Spirit working through the Bible, my trust was transferred from myself to Jesus. Then, as the months went by, I became more open to God's plan for my life – **never** imagining (see [Eph. 3:20](#)) it would lead to serving as a pastor, a shepherd.

## The Ultimate Shepherd and The Under-Shepherd

Jesus is the **Ultimate Shepherd** – perfect in every way, but I am an **under-shepherd** serving under Jesus. I cannot live without sin, but – by God's grace – I am a repentant and forgiven child of God! **It is my greatest desire for us to be with God forevermore!**

Since Jesus' return is drawing closer every moment, it is critical for us to be ready:

- **1 Thessalonians 5:2** "...the Lord will come just like a thief in the night."
- **Mark 13:33** "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come."

## Difficult for Me – Good for You

Shepherds should be diligent to **rightly** and **fully** know, live, and teach God's word:

- **Be Accurate** – **James 3:1** Let not many of you become [Bible] teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such **we will incur a stricter judgment.** // All pastors / under-shepherds should be as hardworking as possible to rightly handle God's word of truth!

- **Warn Unrepentant Ones** – **Ezekiel 3:18** "When I [the LORD] say to the wicked [unrepentant man], 'You will surely die,' and you [Ezekiel – a speaker of My word] do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but **his blood I will require at your hand.**" // Warning unrepentant ones is **DIFFICULT** – for multiple reasons, but **IMPORTANT** – because they will perish without repentance!
- **Identify Sin** – **Galatians 5:19-21** "...the deeds of the flesh are evident:
  - **[Lust and sex outside of marriage]:** [immorality](#), [impurity](#), [sensuality](#),
  - **[Sins related to godlessness]:** [idolatry](#) [idol worship], [sorcery](#),
  - **[Sins related to personal hatred]:** [enmities](#) [hostilities], [strife](#) [discord], [jealousy](#), [outbursts of anger](#),
  - **[Sins related to taking sides]:** [disputes](#), [dissensions](#) [divisions], [factions](#) [sects], [envying](#),
  - **[Sins related to partying]:** [drunkenness](#), [carousing](#) and things like these... **those who practice [do, commit] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**"
- **Tell the Full Truth** – **Acts 20:26-27** [Paul said to pastors he had trained:] **...I am innocent of the blood of all men.** [Why?] For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God." // It is **vital for all shepherds** to teach **God's full truth** and **vital for all people** to faithfully ♣hear, ♣understand, ♣believe, and ♣apply!

## What Do You Do with God's Word?

Think about your normal routine with God's word; then choose the option below that fits your normal routine.

- I **hear** (good, *but don't stop there*).
- I **hear** and **understand** (good, *but it is vital to also believe and apply*).
- I **hear, understand, and believe** (good, *then do it*). **James 1:22** "...prove yourselves [doers of the word](#), and not merely hearers who delude [deceive] themselves."
- I **hear, understand, believe, and apply.** Such people are under the LORD's promised *prosperity and success*. **Joshua 1:8** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate on it day and night**, [Why?] **so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it** [Why?]; for then **you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.**"

## Are You Causing Joy or Grief?

**Hebrews 13:17** "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account [to God]. Let them do this **with joy** and **not with grief**, for this would be unprofitable for you."

- **Causing Joy**☺ – Thanks so much!
- **Causing Grief**☹ – When? When you:
  - Hear God's word *but do not do it*.
  - Put this world *before Jesus*.
  - Use logic *to cancel God's word*.

## These Things Are Vital

- **Be open to all of God's word!** Not sure if the Bible is true? See this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#)



- **Continue in repentance in these ways:**
  - Godly sorrow ([2 Cor. 7:10](#)).
  - Saving faith ([Rom. 3:20-22](#)).
  - Bible nourishment ([Mt. 4:4](#)).
  - God-honoring life ([1 Cor. 10:31](#)).

## We Must Know God and Jesus

- **John 17:3** [Jesus prayed to His Father:] "This is eternal life, that they may **know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**" // The essence of eternal life is **knowing the Father and His Son.** **Do you KNOW them? Are you in RELATIONSHIP with them? If not or not sure:** see the [What If I Died Today brochure](#) and ask me to help you know for sure!
- **Matthew 7:22-23** [Jesus said:] "Many [who trusted in their own good works] will say to Me on that day [when I return], 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.**'" // **We are saved through Jesus' work, not ours!** God-acceptable good works **never precede** our faith but **result from** our faith ([Hebrews 11:6](#); [Romans 14:23](#)).