

Shepherdology 101
Lesson Two

Shepherdology is my name for what the Bible says about Shepherds. It organizes what ten NT passages (that speak at length to the subject) tell us about six key shepherd topics. But before we get into the theology of shepherding grounded in these 10 passages, let's consider **The Fundamentals**.

Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord

Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide

Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd

Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord

Jesus is the head of the church

Colossians 1:17-18

Ephesians 1:20-23

Jesus is the builder of the church who discerns and does what is required to promote its construction (Matthew 16:18).

A. Individual Accountability

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

The only opinion that matters is the Lord's.

So Paul lives for Him and leaves it with Him.

Accountability to "the Lord alone" does not nullify corporate accountability in the body of Christ.

Colossians 1:9-10

2 Corinthians 11:3

We live in a world that exerts profound and manifold pressure to live for the approval of men.

B. Corporate Accountability

Colossians 1:18

Revelation 1:20; 2:5

Jesus is the One who decides on the future of a local church.

C. Accountability for What He Sees

Ezekiel 8:12

Revelation 2:8-9

Revelation 3:1-2

Jesus sees the unseen. His assessment looks past appearances and measures what is real.

The Shepherd Connection

This accountability to the Lord is explicitly connected to church leaders.

Hebrews 13:17

1 Peter 5:4

Doing what Jesus directs is the smart play.

Job 12:13

Proverbs 2:6-7

Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

The Lord is willing to give us direction, perfect direction, if (and this is the big “if”) we will seek it.

“For the shepherds have become stupid / And have not sought the Lord; / Therefore they have not prospered, / And all their flock is scattered” (Jeremiah 10:21).

Bottom Line: The Lord is in charge. He is calling the shots. And He knows what He is talking about.

Benefit: Study what Jesus says about shepherding. Then you can do what is wise now and what Jesus will commend when He returns.

Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide

A. The Sufficiency and Necessity of His Word

The word of God thoroughly teaches us exactly what we need to know to do what Jesus wants.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Everything you can do that God would commend finds its essential guidance in the Bible.

B. The Clarity of His Word

It is possible for us to truly understand God's Word.

1 John 2:27

It is possible for any **child** of God to hear the **voice** of God as he reads the **word** of God.

This does not mean we can forsake studying God's word.

2 Timothy 2:14-15

Mark 7:8

The Bible clearly teaches (clarity) everything we need to know (sufficiency) about what truly matters (necessity).

Extra-biblical resources can help us better understand what the word itself teaches. But where they move outside the circle of what the word clearly teaches, they have less authority.

2 Timothy 3 is illuminating.

Mark 8:38

Mark 7:6-8

C. **The Power of His Word**

Numbers 27:15-17

Numbers 11:4-23

The Lord is telling Moses that His power is vitally connected to His word! When the Lord says how things will be, or how they should be, He is pledging to deploy unlimited supernatural power to fulfill what He says.

His power works in concert with His word.

When His word speaks to the topic of shepherding, it clearly tells us about the essentials of good shepherding and how God's power will work in and through good shepherds.

Acts 20:32

Study and trust what the Bible says about shepherds. Doing so will access divine power that produces remarkable and enduring results.

Benefit Summary

Why study shepherdology?

- ✓ Give a gift to Jesus that is just what He yearns for.
- ✓ Do what is wise in the present.
- ✓ Do what Jesus will commend when He returns.
- ✓ Access divine power that produces remarkable and enduring results.