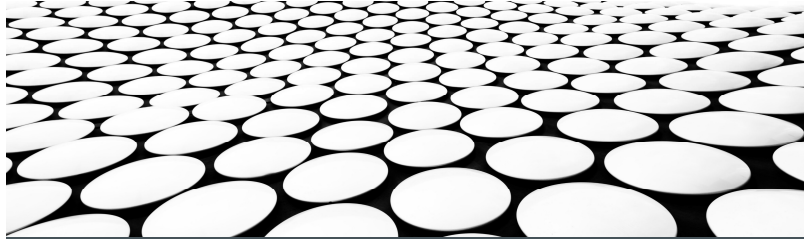


SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS - FUNDAMENTALS 1 & 2



DOING THEOLOGY

- 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**

- I. **Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord**
- II. Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide
- III. Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- **Jesus is the head of the church:** "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **He is also head of the body, the church;** and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have **first place** in everything" (Colossians 1:17-18).
- "Head" in this passage, according to some, means "source." But "first place" hints at more.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “...He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as **head over all things to the church**, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:20-23).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “There is given to the Church, and for the Church’s benefit, a Head who is also Head over all things. The church has authority and power to overcome all opposition because her Leader and Head is Lord of all.” *FRANCIS FOULKES, EPHESIANS*
- Jesus is the builder of the church who discerns and does what is required to promote its construction (Matthew 16:18).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- So we do well to look to Him for guidance in everything that pertains to His church.
- When we want to understand His church – how it operates, how it can be built, and what we must each do to promote its good – we attend to Him.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord

- A. Individual Accountability
- B. Corporate Accountability
- C. Accountability for What He Sees

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD**A. Individual Accountability**

- Paul's motivational secret! "But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by *any* human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but **the one who examines me is the Lord.**"

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and **then each man's praise will come to him from God**" (1 Corinthians 4:3-5).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- In the final analysis, it doesn't matter what others think of Paul's ministry. Indeed, it doesn't matter what **he** thinks of his ministry. The only opinion that matters is the Lord's.
- The Lord will someday render a perfect assessment of what Paul has done. So Paul lives for Him and leaves it with Him.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- Accountability to "the Lord alone" does not nullify corporate accountability in the body of Christ.
- But what is "pleasing to the Lord" is always the standard we use. We are "an interested third party."
- Paul would counsel us (and pray for us) to live well by using the same principle he employs for himself!

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, **to please Him in all respects**, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9–10).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- We want God to be thoroughly delighted by how we live and what we do.
- The enemy’s strategy is to subvert this simple motivation (2 Corinthians. 11:3).
- We live in a world that exerts profound and manifold pressure to live for the approval of men. Smash idols!

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

B. Corporate Accountability

- “He is also head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:18).
- Every local body answers to the Lord alone.
- Jesus is the One who decides on the future of a local church. He holds both the authority and ability to remove the lampstand of a congregation whose love for Him has grown cold.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. ... Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or **else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent**” (Revelation 1:20; 2:5).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD**C. Accountability for What He Sees**

- The Lord to whom we answer sees everything, including what is hidden.
- “Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what the elders of the house of Israel are committing in the dark, each man in the room of his carved images? For they say, “The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land”’” (Ezekiel 8:12).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this: ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (**but you are rich**), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan’” (Revelation 2:8–9).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that **you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead**. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God’” (Revelation 3:1–2).
- Jesus sees the unseen. His assessment looks past appearances and measures what is real.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- In matters of the church, there is only one opinion that matters, the Lord’s. We will not serve the church well without seeing what the Lord sees and promoting what He desires.
- The church is not ours to define and shape according to the tastes and preferences of men.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- Yes, as the end nears, men will accumulate teachers whose popularity arises from their ability to entertain by affirming what people want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3–4).
- Sound doctrine will be replaced by ear tickling.
- But they will answer to the Judge of the living and dead when He returns (2 Timothy 4:1–2).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

The Shepherd Connection

- This accountability to the Lord is explicitly connected to church leaders.
- “Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those **who will give an account**” (Hebrews 13:17).
- Jesus is the “Chief Shepherd” who will reward under-shepherds who have done well (1 Peter 5:4).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- Everything we can learn from Jesus about what **He expects** will serve us well when we are required to “give an account” of ourselves as shepherds.
- This class will unlock what Jesus says about shepherding so you can minister in ways that **we know** He will approve.
- But wait, there’s more!

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- Doing what Jesus directs is the smart play! He knows what He’s talking about.
- “With Him are wisdom and might; / To Him belong counsel and understanding” (Job 12:13).
- “For the LORD gives wisdom; / From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. / He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; / He is a shield to those who walk in integrity” (Proverbs 2:6–7).

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- Left to ourselves, we can easily be fooled with tragic consequences.
- “There is a way which seems right to a man, / But its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).
- But the Lord is willing to give us direction, perfect direction, if (and this is the big “if”) we will seek it.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- “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).
- Stupid shepherds don’t seek the Lord. They don’t want His direction. The sad result is a flock in trouble.
- Smart shepherds seek the Lord’s guidance.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- **Bottom Line:** The Lord is in charge. He is calling the shots. And He knows what He is talking about. Stupid shepherds won’t seek Him out. Smart shepherds will.
- **Benefit:** Study what Jesus says about shepherding. Then you can do what is wise now and what Jesus will commend when He returns.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR LORD

- **Ace the Final!**
- Who am I to critique Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount. Rather let us consider the teaching of Moses in the 10 commandments.
- **Work Smart!** What would it be like to have Solomon (“wiser than all men” – 1 Kings 4:31) as your consultant? We have direct access to someone far better!

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE**Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide**

- A. The Sufficiency and Necessity of His Word
- B. The Clarity of His Word
- C. The Power of His Word

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: 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.
- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- There is no good work that does not find its ultimate genesis in the inspired word of God.
- Let me state it positively: Everything you can do that God would commend finds its essential guidance in the Bible.
- What wonderful news: We are not living in the dark, groping and hoping we can do something to please a silent god.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Everything we need to know (sufficiency) about what truly matters (necessity) is found in God's Word.
- “Yes, that may be true, but isn't the Bible confusing? Aren't there lots of Bible students who disagree over what it teaches?”

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

B. The Clarity of His Word

- It is possible for us to truly understand God's Word.
- "As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him" (1 John 2:27).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- The Holy Spirit abides in every true child of God and compensates for our limitations as students of God's word. The Spirit illumines God's word.
- He allows us to hear what God is saying, without blind dependence on some human intermediary. It is possible for any **child** of God to hear the **voice** of God as he reads the **word** of God.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- This does not mean we can forsake **studying** God's word.
- All men are given the capacity to hear God's voice in His word. But time spent examining God's word will profoundly improve this capacity!

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Paul instructed Timothy: "Remind *them* of these things, and solemnly charge *them* in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth**" (2 Timothy 2:14-15).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- To “study” God’s word means to examine passages (1) according to the relevant conventions of grammar, (2) within their historical context, and (3) in relation to other pertinent passages.
- A failure to effectively study the word leads to serious problems. “Neglecting the commandment of God, you (religious leaders) hold to the tradition of men” (Mark 7:8).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Everything we need to know (sufficiency) about what truly matters (necessity) is found in God’s Word.
- The clarity of God’s word ensures that our faithful study of it will bear fruit.
- Perspicuity = C + S + N: **The Bible clearly teaches (clarity) everything we need to know (sufficiency) about what truly matters (necessity).**

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

Things the Bible does not clearly teach

Things that do not truly matter

The Bible clearly teaches everything we need to know about what truly matters.

Things we don't ultimately need to know

Things that may be helpful but are not essential to know

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- 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.
- At best, they offer helpful or useful pragmatic wisdom pertinent to a particular context.
- Potentially, they can actually distract us from what the Lord of the church intends for us.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- 2 Timothy 3 is illuminating and speaks to us and the world in which we live. This is a “last days” profile; men will be “lovers of self;” these men will “oppose the truth.” “Avoid such men as these.”
- ¹But realize this, that **in the last days** difficult times will come.

²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

⁶For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also **oppose the truth**, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

⁹But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes’s and Jambres’s folly was also.

¹⁰Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

¹¹persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

¹²Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

¹³But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived**.

¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom [**Lois, Eunice, Paul**] you have learned them,

¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- In the dark world we live in that echoes what Paul prophesied in 2 Timothy 3, we desperately need men and women who are word-equipped for every good work.
- It will not bode well for those who are intimidated into silence about things taught in Scripture: “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

IMO: I disagree with some of the things that the Bible clearly teaches, so I don't need to believe what I don't agree with, right?

The Bible clearly teaches everything we need to know about what truly matters.

There are things that I think truly matter to which the Bible does not speak. We should add these to our essentials, right?

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Isaiah and Jesus both spoke to this pitfall: “And He said to them, ‘Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, / BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. / BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, / TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.” Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men’” (Mark 7:6–8).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- *Shepherdology 101* is an attempt to discern what the Lord of the church has to say about a great need in His church. We need shepherds!
- And not just any shepherds. We desperately need shepherds who understand and embrace what His word teaches about how to well shepherd the flock of God.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

C. The Power of His Word

- Moses is a Shepherd: “Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, ‘May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have **no shepherd**’” (Numbers 27:15–17).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- A daunting shepherding challenge!
- Israel complained, “Who will give us meat to eat?” (Numbers 11:4).
- God declared His intent to give Israel exactly what they were whining for and to provide a one month supply of meat.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Moses is rocked back on his heels: “Should flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to be sufficient for them? Or should all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to be sufficient for them?” (Numbers 11:22).
- “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Is the LORD’s power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not’” (Numbers 11:23).

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- 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.**
- God hit a homer! Ten per person!

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- When we align our understanding of what shepherds should be and do with God’s word, we can stand back and watch God work.
- There is a flip side: “And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief” (Matthew 13:58). When we don’t trust what the Lord says, that unbelief acts like a power dampener.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- **Summary:** God’s word tells us everything we need to know about what truly matters. His word is clear and can be understood by every surrendered soul who would study it diligently.
- **Benefit:** His word outlines the ways that the power of God will be demonstrated. So 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.

FUNDAMENTAL TWO: JESUS' WORD, OUR EFFECTIVE GUIDE

- Paul exhorted the Ephesian elders, “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).
- **Study and trust what the Bible says about shepherds. Doing so will access divine power that produces remarkable and enduring results.**

BENEFITS (4 OF 6)

Why study shepherding?

- 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.

SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS – FUNDAMENTALS 1 & 2

