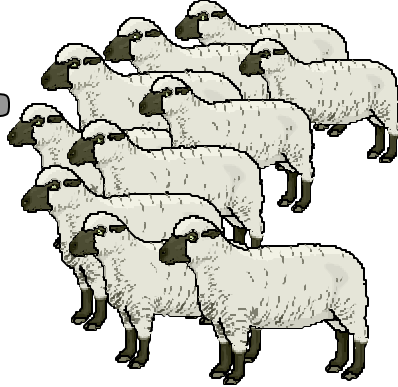




"Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to Thee, when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For Thou hast been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy. Let me dwell in Thy tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Thy wings." (Psalm 61:1-4) NASB

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE



"7 Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

"... 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." (John 10:7-18, 26-30) NASB

As we move forward into the new year "2010" there are many sheep still without a shepherd. There will be more distractions from within and outside the flock with strange voices in our midst. The Church will be challenged on every front because of the rebellion and desperately wicked generation we have become. Will the coming year be as the prophet Amos described? - "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD." (Amos 8:11) Thieves, robbers, black sheep and goats stir up the flock while the wolves move in for the kill! - It happens when we listen to a stranger's voice rather than the voice of the Good Shepherd who is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Who are these strange voices so appealing to the sheep, that they are willing to abandon the cross to follow them? What power do these strange voices have that can make a person carve up, throw out, twist, turn, add or take away from Scripture?

We know there are cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses who like to take away (subtract) from the Scriptures and the Mormons who like to add to them. The Unitarians, Humanists, Pantheists, Gnostics and Spiritualists surround us. Some of their teachings, philosophies, theories and rituals have crept into our churches and their voices are now being heard even louder as the days go by.

Some are the leaders of conventions, conferences and assemblies who lead the churches. Others are at the local pulpits. Wherever they come from they all have one thing in common, the Bible is not their final authority and they have abandoned the Word of God. Consider this following passage of Scripture: "Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”(1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

These are the words God has chosen to preserve, enforce and convict all sinners in the past, present and future as written by The Holy Spirit through the pen of the Apostle Paul.

The plain sense meaning of Scripture has not changed. Fornication and adultery is still sex outside of marriage. Male and female same sex prostitution, Gay and Lesbian life styles are still the practice of homosexuality. The worship of idols and other created things is still idolatry. Notice carefully that none of these sins mentioned is worse than the other. They equally can keep a person out of God's Kingdom.

The humanistic idea that we can save ourselves, or save the earth, goes along with trusting the creation rather than the Creator. No matter how you slice it, the demonic teaching of Darwin's human evolution is a direct denial of God our Creator. (Genesis 1:1-2:25)

Stealing, greed, drunkenness, abusiveness and swindling are still sin that separates us from God. Romans 1:20-32 describes in even further detail the depravity of sin and the consequence of the condemnation is divine abandonment. The voices of those who accept, teach and practice such things are the voices of those who are strangers to God. The true sheep that belong to the "Good Shepherd" do not listen to the voices of strangers. Praise the Lord, the Words of Jesus as He said, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."* (John 10:27-28) As we continue to hear about the collapse or divisions of any church, remember the voice of the Good Shepherd.

As a growing number of our churches embrace same sex marriage, homosexual clergy and leadership, Darwinian Evolution, alternative ways to obtain salvation apart from Jesus Christ alone, and other sinful, worldly practices and teachings, don't be afraid. We who are also sinners must never elevate ourselves as judges over others. Remember there is only one true God, one Judge, Lord and Savior who is the Shepherd of one flock. We must do our best to stay focused on our eternal perspective in the midst of troubled times. In regards to sin and corruption there is good news and a way out. Paul wrote: *"And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."*(1 Corinthians 6:11) We can repent from sin by turning to our Savior. Paul also wrote these words of

encouragement: *"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Most people, especially believers are well aware of their own sins without needing someone to point it out to them. To have a personal relationship with the Lord we all need to continually deal with our sins before Him. This we know by the authority of God's Word. However, the content of this article is meant to address the larger issue at hand. That is, whole churches and denominations being swept away by deceivers calling "evil good" and "good evil." Jude writes: *"These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever."* (Jude 1:12-13)

We are obligated to expose these false teachers and stop allowing them to flourish among the flock. James wrote: *"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."* (James 4:17)

Some encouragement and scriptural advice for the new year: *"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."* (2 Timothy 4:2)

Keep in mind that although some of our leaders in the churches have turned toward the wisdom of the world for political correctness, popularity, money and pleasure, this does not include the entire flock of whom they are temporarily in charge of. Those who choose God's wisdom will follow the Good Shepherd and He will lead them through whatever distractions may occur. His sheep hear His voice and we follow Him. □ MARANATHA!

MINISTRY NOTE: The new "Humbleheart Instrumentals" album was released in September. Please keep us in your prayers as we adjust to a decrease in financial support like many other missions and ministries at this time.

Humbleheart Ministries
11883 Findley Lake Road
North East, PA 16428-3909
(814) 725-1229 ~ Email: hefrees@aol.com
Website: www.humbleheart.org

(Permission is granted to duplicate this Humbleheart Publication)