

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: The Called

John 10:3,4,11,27,28 -- he calleth his own sheep by name - the sheep follow him for they know his voice - the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep - my sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me -- and I give unto them eternal life.

Ephesians 5:25 -- Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.

church - Greek: ekklesia-"a calling out"; hence "the called" of God
Proverbs 20:12 -- The hearing ear; and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.

Isaiah 50:4 -- He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned - the Lord God hath opened mine ear.

Matthew 11:15 -- He that hath ears to hear, let him hear --

hear - Greek: akouo-to understand by imperative command; having the same effectual work of God as when he said "Let there be light" - It is so.

In ancient Israel the kingdom was considered a sheepfold, ruled by a shepherd-king. The subjects were called sheep (Ezek. 34:2-10). The whole people of Israel was designated "the church" as a divinely called congregation. The early Christians believed themselves to be this "church" or true sheep of Israel. Stephen spoke of this church being in the wilderness with Moses (Acts 7:38). The church (called out) and sheep are equivalent terms. The sheep are "called out" of this world to live righteously as the Kingdom of God (Luke 17:21). Israel was called The Kingdom of God (or heaven). Jesus as the shepherd-king died only for his sheep (the church). He did not die for every individual. However he died for "all men". God had limited his "calling" to Israel under the old covenant. Because of their idolatry, he extended the kingdom (calling) to all flesh (red flesh, yellow flesh, black flesh, white flesh) (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17). Men of every nation, tongue, and kindred will be a part of the church (flock) according to their election from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). Jesus died only for his sheep (the church - the called) which were given to him by his father (John 6:37-39; John 17:2,6,9,10,11,24). Jesus died for an exact people. Jesus did not die for the man in hell (Luke 16). He is dying the second death (Rev.20:6,14; 21:8) paying for his own sins. Death means separation from God (Luke 16:26). Jesus was separated from God for his church (sheep) when he cried "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken (separated yourself from) me (Matt. 27:46). Every man must die once (Heb. 9:27). If Jesus died (paying the debt) for any mans sins who spends eternity in hell, then there is an inequity with God in that he is requiring double payment for sins. God is righteous, he will not do that. Jesus chose his sheep before the world began (IIThes.2:13). He gave them hearing (spiritual) ears to hear, then he commanded them "follow me"(John 1:43). More over whom he did predestinate, them "he also called" and whom "he called" he justified, and whom he justified he glorified (Rom. 8:30).

GRACE AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

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