

Sermon Series Topics:

The Eldership of the Church

- What is a Shepherd? (*August 14th AM Sermon*)
- What are Sheep? (*August 14th PM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Watches the Sheep. (*August 21st Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Leads the Sheep (*August 21st PM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Protects the Sheep (*August 28th AM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Feeds the Sheep (*September 4th AM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Knows the Sheep (*September 4th PM Sermon*)

The Deacons of the Church

- Servanthood at its finest (*September 11th AM Sermon*)
- The Efficiency of the Church (*September 11th PM Sermon*)

The Preachers of the Church

- Minister, Preacher, Evangelist: Which is it? (*September 18th AM Sermon*)
- What Preacher's wish the Church knew about Preaching (*September 18th PM Sermon*)

*Strengthening the Church by
Strengthening the Leadership*

The Shepherd Feeds the Sheep

*Strengthening the Church by
Strengthening the Leadership*



Acts 20:28–32

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. 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.

Thoughts on Food:

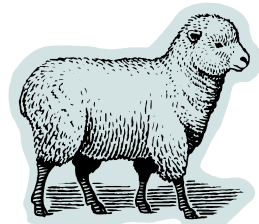
- “But he said to them, “I have no food to eat that you do not know about.” ... “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” (John 4:32, 34)
- “Then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened.” (Acts 9:19)
- The Lord provides our physical food (Matthew 6:11).
- “The asked, and he brought quail, and gave them bread from heaven in abundance. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.” (Psalm 105:40, 41)

Types of Spiritual Food:

- There are infant members in the Lord’s flock:
 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
 - 1 Peter 2:2
 - Hebrews 5:12, 13
- There are mature members in the Lord’s flock:
 - Hebrews 5:14

Where is the Spiritual Food Found?

- The Lord provides food in due season (Psalm 145:15).
- (Matthew 6:25)
- Christ will provide food (John 6:27)
- (John 6:48-63)
- (Psalm 22:26)



The Importance of Feeding the Sheep:

- Spiritual shepherds must seek out good food for the flock.
 - Physical shepherds always wanted the best for their sheep (1 Chronicles 4:39-41; Psalm 23:2)
 - (Genesis 29:2,3)
 - (Ezekiel 34:13-16)
 - (Titus 1:10, 11)
- Spiritual shepherds must feed the flock
 - A congregation will grow only as much as the shepherds will allow.
 - As the eldership goes, so goes the congregation.
 - (1 Peter 5:2)
 - He must know the word (Titus 1:9).
- Spiritual shepherds must know what food will provide nourishment to the sheep.
 - The shepherds must know the sheep to know what they need to eat.
 - Without the proper food, sheep will not grow.
 - Without the proper food, sheep will not rest.
 - Without the proper food, sheep will scatter in search of food.
 - Some "good looking" food will be poisonous and kill them.
 - Other may fall into the flock of a abusive, selfish shepherd.
 - Without the proper food, sheep will spread a virus through the flock
 - An overseer (*spiritual shepherd*) must be able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2).