

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 Protects 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 Fear

- The only thing I am afraid of is fear. (*Duke of Wellington, 1831*)
- The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. (*Franklin D. Roosevelt*)
- Fear is the conglomeration of sinister shadows, and a shadow that has no substance. (*Norman Vincent Peale*)
- Fear is pain arising from the anticipation of evil. (*Aristotle*)

What is Your Three Greatest Fears?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

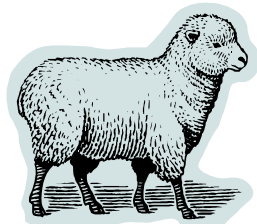
Four Requirements of Sheep to Lay Down:

- Sheep will not lay down unless they are free from all fear.
- Sheep will not lay down unless they are free from problems with other sheep.
- Sheep will not lay down if they are tormented by insects.
- Sheep will not lay down if they are in need of finding food.

(from *A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23*
By Phillip Keller)

Where is Protection Found?

- Not in idols (Deuteronomy 32:37-39)
- Not in man (Psalms 146:3)
- Not in riches (Proverbs 11:28)
- (Psalm 18:1-50)



Importance of Divine Protection:

- The power of the watching eyes of the Lord. (Psalm 127:1)
 - Take note of Psalm 121:1,2
- Our very present help. (Psalm 46:1)
- The Lord will guard you against the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
 - Psalm 23:4
- The Lord protects you during temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- The Lord offers protection against enemies. Psalm 23:5; 56:9)
- 2 Timothy 4:17,18

The Importance of Protecting the Sheep:

- Spiritual shepherds must protect the sheep against terror from outside the flock.
 - “...fierce wolves will come in among you...” (Acts 20:29)
 - See Matthew 7:15-20
 - Note that the wolves will not spare the flock!
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-7
- Spiritual shepherds must protect the sheep against terror.
 - “...among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things...” (Acts 28:31)
 - Paul notes false teachers. (1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 1:15; 2:17; Jude 4)
 - 2 Peter 3:16)