

Church in Regina

An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery Before His Appearing—Wk 6

Shepherding is **all-inclusive tender care**. If someone is shepherding you, that means he or she **really cares for you**. That person has in his or heart a **loving concern for you** and may have some realization of what you need. This one is **not here to examine or to criticize** but to care for you. All-inclusive care involves various aspects of our being. This is shepherding. Just reflect for a moment, without being too subjective, to see if you can remember times when someone in the church really shepherded you in this way. That one did not come and say, "Hi, sheep; I am here to shepherd you." Perhaps instead, you had a three-minute conversation after the meeting, and you walked away refreshed and supplied. That conversation was an experience of this all-inclusive tender care.

A further point concerning shepherding is what we call **mutual shepherding**. This means that we are all **both sheep and shepherds**. Thus, it becomes something mutual. This means that we are all on the same level. It is not that only the elders are shepherds and that we are the sheep. If that is our concept, then we still have the hierarchy of Christianity in our minds. We may view the leading brothers, sitting in the front row all the time, in a category of their own. Therefore, we view the rest of the saints as being in another category. I assure you that the vast majority of these dear leading brothers do not think of themselves that way. They do not have that feeling. They are just serving the Lord and functioning. We all are both sheep and shepherds, shepherding and being shepherded in mutuality. **In the shepherding according to God, the cross is applied in a vital way**. We **cannot do anything by the self** or **simply because of responsibility**. Our shepherding is out of a genuine, loving concern. When we see a lost sheep, we want to bring this one back to the Lord's present move on the earth.

We have emphasized that shepherding is all-inclusive tender care. The brothers, and especially the sisters in a different way, have to learn **how to have a tender heart reproduced** in them. In our shepherding, there may be a serious problem that has to be properly dealt with, but it must be done with a genuine, tender heart. This is because the one being shepherded, in most cases, can see right through us. He or she may agree with what we are doing but not with the way in which we are doing it. When we meet the Lord, we must give an account of our interactions with others in a shepherding way. In our shepherding, did we allow Christ to shepherd through us with this all-inclusive tender care?

We should admit that we are complicated. Since we are complicated, **we need Christ**, who is the life-giving Spirit in our spirit, **to shepherd us in our soul**. We need Him to take care of our mind, emotion and will with all our problems, needs, and wounds. Let me give a brief illustration of a certain category of saints. Many times, saints come for one-on-one fellowship because they have been offended or troubled. These saints have tried their best to forgive the one who offended them. They have the heart to forgive. They have even prayed to forgive, but it seems that they cannot forgive. The feeling does not go away. When these saints see the one who offended them, all the feelings come up again within. After listening to these saints carefully, I point out that they have actually forgiven already but that they do not realize they have been wounded. The sisters, more often are aware of this. The brothers often tend to suppress this. It is not healthy to keep these feelings from coming to our consciousness. This kind of saint has been hurt, and with the hurt, there is suffering and pain. The pain gives them the feeling that they have not forgiven. Thus, the Lord wants to come to us just as He came as the good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-35. In that parable a man had been beaten, wounded and left on the ground to die. Then the Samaritan came, poured oil and wine into the man's wounds, and bound them up. This is Christ coming to heal the wound with the divine life in the Spirit. When the wound is cured, the feeling is all gone, and the offense is just an event. It does not gnaw at you any longer. We have all been wounded, some very very deeply. The Shepherd of our soul knows this, and He knows when to come and what to do. Therefore, I appeal to you to come to Him as an open vessel. **Let Him be the Shepherd of your soul, taking care of all your inward parts day and night so that He can spread from your spirit into all your inner parts**. Then you will have joy unspeakable and full of glory (Excerpts from Ministry of the Word, Vol. 27. No. 7, 143-166).

Local Announcements:

1. Prayer Mtg—Jan. 9 by Groups
2. Love Feast—Jan. 14
3. Sisters' Meeting—Jan. 14
4. LS Reading—Life—Study of Jeremiah, Msgs 21-25

Conferences and Trainings Information:

1. Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference—Feb.10-11, Taipei, Taiwan
2. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Apr.12-14, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending Conference—May 24-27, Bellevue, WA
4. Summer Training—July 1-6, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones—Oct.4-6, Warsaw, Poland
6. Thanksgiving Blending Conference—Nov.28-Dec.1, Atlanta, GA
7. Winter Training—Dec.23-28, Anaheim, CA

Prayer Burdens

1. Thank You, Lord for shepherding us. We used to be sheep led astray until we returned to You as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Thank you for caring for our outward welfare and our inward being.
2. Lord, make us those who shepherd through teaching and teach by shepherding. Equip us with Your grace to speak the truth of your eternal economy. May our speaking be for edifying and nourishing of the saints.
3. Lord, continue to shepherd our inner being and exercise Your oversight over our condition. Direct our mind, comfort our emotions, and lead and guide our will.
4. Make us shepherds according to You – which is according to Your life and attributes instead of our own opinion, concept, likes or dislikes. May we oversee others by overseeing their need.
5. Lord, have our mouths open and our hearts enlarged for all believers. In us who are fallen, saved, called, redeemed, and regenerated, there is nothing perfect expect the constituting Christ. Cause Your shepherding life in us to shepherd others.
6. Keep us under Your organic shepherding. We are all sheep and shepherds, shepherding and being shepherded in mutuality. Grant us the burden to shepherd one another that Your Body will be built up in love.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. The conflict in Ukraine
 - > Please continue to pray that:
 - ◆ The Lord will keep all the saints in the involved countries open to Him for His divine dispensing.
 - ◆ The Lord will meet the practical needs of the saints and preserve their tripartite being for His interests.
 - ◆ The Lord will comfort and sustain those who have lost loved ones in the war.
 - ◆ The enemy will be bound in his attack on the Lord's interests in Russia, Ukraine, and the whole of Europe.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for a genuine revival and the Church in Regina's direction for 2024. Revive us, Lord, to rise up, take action, shepherd one another according to God in love. May this year be a new beginning with much shepherding, much care and genuine concern to one another.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—MW 8:30-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM

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