

“We All Need a Shepherd”

Rev. David J. Bauer



There is an inter-dependence between creature, human and plant life on this planet. Bees are responsible for pollinating 1/3 of everything we eat. Domestic animals are dependent on humans for their very survival. Sheep are no exception, as they require constant care of an attentive shepherd.

It is no wonder that David, the shepherd psalmist compares his relationship to God with a shepherd and his sheep in Psalm 23. Sheep have little natural defense and are vulnerable to most predators. Without shepherds sheep would have become extinct a long time ago. Likewise, humans made in the image of our Creator, cannot find true meaning without a relationship with our Shepherd-Creator. Jesus called Himself the “Good Shepherd” -John 10.

There are four needs that only a Good Shepherd can provide.

True Satisfaction – *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”* King Solomon, the richest man of his time, said that he “hated life” and could not enjoy all the pleasures at his disposal –Ecclesiastes 2. We are placed on this planet for a limited time and given many things to enjoy. However, nothing we touch will give lasting satisfaction. We must turn to the Lord for the ability to enjoy our time and experiences on earth. In contrast to Solomon, Paul the Apostle, imprisoned in Rome, notes that he could be content with little or a lot. He could do this *“...through Christ who strengthens me”* –Philippians 4:13. St. Augustine noted: *“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul.” Sheep will only lie down peacefully when they are well fed, free of predators, pesky insects, and friction from other sheep. A Good Shepherd controls the environment, providing the safest, and most restful place for his sheep to lie down. He also will restore wounded or helpless sheep of his fold. Our Shepherd is in the restoration business!

The Right Leader - *“He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”* Poorly managed sheep will pollute the land and water, chew grass down to bare ground, and follow each other down the same path, even over a dangerous cliff. A wise shepherd will lead his sheep in a proper rotation over new green vegetation. He varies the route, to allow the land to recover, help keep the waterways clean for his sheep. Likewise, Isaiah 53:6 denotes our helpless estate: *“All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.”* We are all sinners and going down the wrong path, in need of a Good Shepherd, one who gave His life for His sheep -John 10:11. Left alone, humans will destroy themselves eventually. We will consistently go down wrong paths according to the wicked lust of our nature. We need a Shepherd who knows the way, *“...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin*



Rev. David J. & Dolores Bauer
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of the world” (John 1:29), God’s eternal plan *“from the foundation of the world”* –Revelation 13:8. Our Shepherd will lead us in right paths, for He is the way, the truth and the life! –John 14:6

Removing Fear - He is always with me - *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.”* He will never leave us or forsake us –Heb. 13:5. Nothing in life or death will ever separate us from our Good Shepherd’s love for us –Romans 8:37-39. I am His; He is mine!

“Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me; Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.” Our Shepherd carries a rod and a staff, a symbol of His discipline and His protection against enemies and any predators of the sheep. *“Thou preparest a table before me...”* The Shepherd will visit the high table land first to check for poisonous weeds, snakes and any predators before bringing his flock there.

No matter what we may be going through in the moment, it is good to know that our Good Shepherd has gone before us and prepared the way for us. For He promised: *“I go and prepare a place for you...”* *“Thou anointest my head with oil”* To this day Shepherds dip each sheep’s head in repellent and disinfectant to ward off insects. God seals each of His sheep with His Holy Spirit –Ephes.4:30. *“My cup runneth over.”* There are many blessings in this life and for eternity!

An Eternal Future – *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Sheep that are well cared for by a Good Shepherd leave good things behind. The grass grows lush when sheep are rotated from one field to another on a regular basis. Sheep eat a lot of worthless weeds and deposit some very valuable manure to enrich the soil. And of course, the Psalmist David had an assurance that he would be spending his eternity in the house of the Lord – Forever! Is this your hope? Ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior. Recognize you are a sinner in need of a Savior. God has provided a Savior who died in your place: His only Son, the Good Shepherd. Make Jesus your Shepherd by asking him to be your Savior today!

Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch Christian, who with her family helped Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. Unfortunately, they were caught and imprisoned by the Nazis. But Corrie never lost her faith in God and continued to spread hope and encouragement to those around her. Quotes from Corrie Ten Boom: *“Don’t bother to give God instructions, just report for duty.”*

“There is no panic in Heaven! God has no problems, only plans.”

“You can never learn that Christ is all you need until Christ is all you have.”

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.”

“Now, I know in my experience that Jesus’ light is stronger than the biggest darkness.”

RECIPES

Zucchini Apple Salad

2 medium Red Apples - chopped
2 small Zucchini - chopped (remove seeds first)
½ Cup Walnuts - coarsely chopped
2/3 Cup Italian Salad Dressing
Mix all ingredients together. Ready to serve. Yields six servings

Sweet 'n' Sour Coleslaw

½ Cup Heavy Whipping Cream
5 ½ Cups Coleslaw Mix
1/3 Cup Sugar
½ tsp Salt
2 Tbsp. White Vinegar

Place Coleslaw Mix in a serving bowl. In a jar with a tight fitting lid, combine the remaining ingredients; Shake well. Pour over Coleslaw Mix and toss to coat. Refrigerate until serving. Serves 4



Mosquitoes Bite Treatment – If you are a mosquito magnet, you may get some relief from itchy bites. When the bite is fresh, heat a spoon in hot water or liquid (as hot as you can stand), then press the back of the spoon against the bite for one minute. The heat somehow neutralizes the bite reducing the time and intensity of the itchiness.

Bee Sting? Use a cut potato and place on the bee sting. If sting is from a honeybee, the stinger must first be carefully scraped off with a knife blade. Do not squeeze the part above the surface as it will pump more venom under the skin. Yellow Jackets or wasps do not leave a stinger, but can sting more than once. Other remedies for bee stings are Meat Tenderizer mixed with couple drops of water (paste) and Baking Soda mixed with Vinegar.

Remedies for a Burn – Immediately pour Soy Sauce on the burn. If you do not have Soy Sauce, immediately slice a fresh new onion and place on the burn area. These remedies, left on the area for 1/2 hour will ease burning sensation and blistering of the burn wound. They work!

Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan! Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terrybalko@gmail.com.

Gifts to BRM can be sent to our PO Box or made online with any *charge* or *debit card* using the Paypal button on the left side of website page at: www.biblrelatedministries.org. It's easy to use! Thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry! **Bible Related Ministries keeps Church doors open and good men behind our pulpits! BRM is supported 100% by individuals and church donations.**

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director

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“A man who has friends must himself be friendly; but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” –Proverbs 18:24

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Rev. David J. Bauer's Director's Itinerary

So far, our schedule open for August pulpit supply. We have preachers available and willing to fill pulpits as requested by churches.

The Lighter Side - Our Silver Years...

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

I'm a multi tasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!

I don't have grey hair. I have wisdom highlights. Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

I don't trip, I do random gravity checks.

One minute you're young and fun. Next, you're turning down the car stereo to see better.

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good just getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story anyway.

BRM Field Report #8

We get as lot of work done by networking with other ministries of similar philosophies. Myself and our trained Associates cannot be everywhere; but we can use our network of people we know to help churches across the nation.

A church in Idaho contacted us, looking for a pastoral candidate. We have never been in Idaho and have absolutely no leads in that particular state. However, we have a powerful God, who is aware of the need. We will continue to pray to Him concerning this church and we are trusting that He will answer that need. We await His answer with great anticipation as we look for a true "God moment." See Ephesians 3:20-21.

Our office received an email request from a Columbus, Ohio suburb. A church needed someone to fill the pulpit morning and evening on a specific Sunday in July. Though this director has never been to Columbus, through a network of friends living there, we were able to furnish a preacher to fill in for that Sunday!

Our extended article in the July Newsletter sparked a renewed interest in our book, CROSSFIRE. This WWII excerpt was taken out of the book's 3rd chapter, highlighting the Anzio Beachhead experience of Rev. Chuck Svoboda. A fitting story celebrating our Fourth of July month!

And speaking of "highlighting", Pacific Garden Mission News in July highlighted one of their staff members, Pastor Angel Feliciano, a graduate of their Bible Program in 2013. Pastor Angel now ministers to 200 new migrants in PGM, when he regularly preaches in Spanish. Pastor Angel, who can preach in English too, had been recommended by BRM and former pastor, Ivan Ramirez over two years ago to be in the pulpit of Grace Bible Church in Berwyn. Pastor Dave and Dolores Bauer were there for his installation service in April 2022. The church is growing under Pastor Angel's leadership and guidance, with his wife, Karlyn.

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer

See pics of many events on BRM Facebook!