

**Monday 3/24****Related Verses****1 Pet. 2:21-23**

**21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

**22** Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth;

**23** Who being reviled did not revile in return; suffering, He did not threaten but kept committing all to Him who judges righteously;

**Eph. 4:20-21**

**20** But you did not so learn Christ,

**21** If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

**Rom. 8:29**

**29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

**2 Cor. 3:18**

**18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

**John 3:15**

**15** That every one who believes into Him may have eternal life.

**Eph. 3:8**

**8** To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

**Related Reading**

The word *model* [in 1 Peter 2:21] has been spoiled by common usage. Literally, the Greek word means a writing-copy, an underwriting for students to use in tracing letters as they learn to draw them. In ancient times teachers would write letters on writing material, and those letters became a master copy. Another piece of writing material was put upon the master copy. Then the children would practice writing by tracing the letters from the master copy onto their copy...The Lord Jesus

has set His life before us as an underwriting for us to copy by tracing and following His steps. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 600-601)

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It is not God's intention, however, that we try to imitate Christ by our own effort. We know from experience that trying to imitate Christ does not work. We are not able to imitate Him. What we need is not imitation, but reproduction...Outwardly Christ is our model, and inwardly He is our person, living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in us. Through this process we become a reproduction of the original, a reproduction of Christ as our model.

We need to become Christ's reproduction, copies of Christ, by experiencing a process that involves the riches of the divine life. When this process is completed, we shall become a reproduction of Christ. When anyone observes the expression of the Triune God from within a believer, this indicates that such a believer has become a reproduction of Christ, the model. The manner of life that expresses the processed Triune God is a reproduction of Christ.

As a model to the believers, Christ is the original used for making a reproduction of Himself. In order to understand Christ as our model, we need experience. From experience we know that as we enjoy Christ day by day, we are undergoing the process of spiritual reproduction to make us living copies of Christ.

To become the reproduction of Christ is very different from trying to imitate Him. To illustrate, a man may set an example for a monkey to stand upright, and the monkey stands up, imitating the man. Then the man walks, and the monkey imitates him by walking on two feet. But after the imitation is finished, the man leaves, and the monkey goes back to walking on all fours. At least to a certain extent, those teachers who instruct believers to imitate Christ are like a man training a monkey to imitate a human being. Trying to imitate Christ in such a way simply does not work. Therefore, I do not encourage you to imitate Christ. Instead, I would point you to His riches. I would point you to Him as the One living in us, being formed in us, and making His home in us so that we may undergo the process of

becoming the reproduction of Christ as our model. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 601-602)

As we read 1 Peter 2:18-25, we see that Peter was very rich in experience. In this portion he speaks of grace, the writing copy, the Savior, the Shepherd, and the Overseer. Christ is the life within us, and He is also the model for us to follow. If we live by Christ as our inward life, that is, by the indwelling Christ Himself, we will undergo the process of spiritual xeroxing to become a reproduction of Christ. At the same time, we will experience Him as the Savior saving us, as the Shepherd leading and guiding us, and as the Overseer caring for us...May we all practice to enjoy Christ according to what is revealed in these verses. May we all enjoy Him as grace, as the model, and as the wonderful Savior, Shepherd, and Overseer. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, p. 194)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 56

**Tuesday 3/25****Related Verses****Gal. 2:20**

**20** I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**John 6:57**

**57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

**Gal. 1:16**

**16** To reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,

**Col. 3:4, 10-11**

**4** When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

**10** And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

**11** Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**John 14:16-19**

**16** And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,  
**17** Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.  
**18** I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.  
**19** Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

**Related Reading**

We come now to the very important and vital matter of Christ being the One who lives within the believers so that they may live Him. Christ is not only our life; He as a person lives in us. All Christians need to realize that we have another person—Christ—living in us. We need to see the vision that the very One who died on the cross to redeem us is now living within us.

Christ, on the one hand, is in the third heavens. But on the other hand, He lives within us. Christ became the life-giving Spirit in order that He might live in us. Without being the life-giving Spirit, it would not be possible for the heavenly Christ to live in us...As the life-giving Spirit, He lives within us. Now we have Christ not only as our life but also as our person. Because He lives in us, we should take Him as our person and live Him.

In Galatians 2:20 Paul says, “Christ...lives in me.”...For Christ to live in us does not mean that He lives instead of us. In Galatians 2:20 Paul says, on the one hand, “no longer I,” and on the other hand, “Christ...lives in me.” The phrase in me is of great importance. Yes, it is Christ who lives, but He lives in us. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 587-588)

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In order to understand how Christ can live in us, we need to consider John 14. Before His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus said to the disciples, “Because I live, you also shall live” (v. 19). Christ lives in us by causing us to live with Him. Christ does not live alone; He lives in us and with us. He lives in us by enabling us to live with Him...We have not been altogether ruled out, and our life has not been exchanged for the divine life. We continue to exist, but we exist

with the Triune God. The Triune God who now dwells within us causes us to live with Christ. Hence, Christ lives in us through our living with Him.

In John 6:57 the Lord Jesus said, “As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.” The Son did not live by Himself. However, this does not mean that the Son was set aside and ceased to exist. The Son, of course, continued to exist, but He did not live His own life. Instead, He lived the life of the Father. In this way the Son and the Father had one life and one living. It is the same in our relationship with Christ today. We and Christ do not have two lives. We have one life and one living. We live by Him, and He lives in us. If we do not live, He does not live; and if He does not live, we cannot live. On the one hand, we are terminated; on the other hand, we continue to exist, but we do not exist without Christ. Christ lives within us, and we live with Him. Therefore, we and He have one life and one living.

Paul’s word in Galatians 2:20 about Christ living in us is definite and emphatic. There is no ambiguity here. Paul clearly says that Christ, as a person, lives in us. This Christ who lives in us is the pneumatic Christ, the Christ who is the Spirit. Now that He dwells in us as the Spirit, we need to learn how to let Him live in us and how to live together with Him. A normal believer is a person who has one life and one living with Christ. We are one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17), we have one life with Him, and now we should be one person with Him. Sooner or later, those who seek the Lord realize that Someone divine, heavenly, eternal, and spiritual lives in them as a person. If we see this, we shall also see that just as He lived because of the Father, we should now live because of Him, taking Him as our person. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 588-589)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 55

Wednesday 3/26

**Related Verses****Gal. 4:19**

**19** My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you,

**Eph. 3:17**

**17** That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**John 1:12-13**

**12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,  
**13** Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Col. 2:19**

**19** And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

**Eph. 4:15-16**

**15** But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,  
**16** Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**Rom. 12:4-5**

**4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,  
**5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**Related Reading**

Christ was born into the Galatian believers, but not formed in them when they were regenerated through Paul’s preaching the gospel to them the first time. The apostle then travailed again that Christ might be formed in them [Gal. 4:19]...His preaching was to bring forth Christ, the Son of the living God, in the believers. Paul’s preaching was emphatically Christ-centered. According to the book of Galatians, Christ has been revealed in us

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(1:16), He is now living in us (2:20), and He will be formed in us (4:19). To have Christ formed in us is to have Christ grown in us in full. First Christ was born into us at our conversion, now He lives in us in our Christian life, and He will be formed in us at our maturity.

Paul's word about Christ being formed in us implies that we are being constituted of Christ. To have Christ formed in us is a living, organic matter. Christ is now living in us so that we may be constituted of Him organically. He intends to constitute our being—our mind, emotion, and will—of Himself. He will constitute every part of our soul so that we may have His form, His image, in every part of our being. The word formed in Galatians 4:19 corresponds to the word image in 2 Corinthians 3:18, where Paul tells us that we are being transformed into Christ's image. This image is a form. Christ must be formed in us so that we may express Him by being in His image. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 590)

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The New Testament reveals that Christ is deeply related to our being...It is a fact that Christ with His element dwells within us. As the living One, He with His element is working within us organically, constituting Himself into our being so that we may have His form and express His image. Paul travailed that Christ might be formed in the believers in this way.

The Christ who lives in us and who is being formed in us is now making His home in our hearts [Eph. 3:17]...The heart is the center of our being. In our hearts Christ is now making His home, that is, settling Himself. Therefore, Christ is not only in us, but He is making His home in us.

Our heart is composed of the three parts of our soul—the mind, the emotion, and the will—plus our conscience, the main part of our spirit. Through regeneration, Christ came into our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). Now we should allow Him to spread Himself into every part of our hearts. The heart is the totality of all our inward parts and the center of our inward being. Therefore, when Christ makes His home in our hearts, He controls our entire inward being and supplies and strengthens every inward part with Himself.

Christ desires to spread from our spirit to all the parts of our heart. We, however, may not always be willing for Him to spread into our mind, emotion, or will. Therefore, Paul prayed to the Father that He would strengthen us according to His power by His Spirit into our inner man so that Christ may make His home in our hearts. This indicates that by being strengthened in this way, we shall be willing to let the indwelling Christ spread into all the parts of our being and to take over each part. This is Christ making His home in our hearts.

When we were saved, Christ came into our spirit...As we are strengthened into the inner man, the door is opened for Christ to spread in us, to spread from our spirit to every part of our mind, emotion, and will. The more Christ spreads within us, the more He settles down in us and makes His home in us. This means that He occupies every part of our inner being, possessing all these parts and saturating them with Himself. As a result, we are filled with Christ. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 591-593)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 55

<b>Thursday 3/27</b>
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**Related Verses****1 Pet. 2:25**

25 For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Psa. 23:3**

3 He restores my soul; He guides me on the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

**Phil. 1:27**

27 Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent, I may hear of the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,

**Heb. 13:17**

17 Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.

**1 Cor. 6:17**

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

**Rom. 12:2**

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

**Related Reading**

Christ was our Redeemer in His death on the tree. Now He is our soul's Shepherd and Overseer in the resurrection life within us. Therefore, He is able to guide us and supply us with life that we may follow in His steps according to the model of His suffering (1 Pet. 2:21). According to verse 25, Christ is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Our soul is our inner being, our real person. Our Lord, as the Shepherd and Overseer of our soul, shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our real person. (Life-study of 1 Peter, p. 190)

In the second stage of His shepherding, Christ restores (revives and transforms) our soul (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23) and guides us (to walk according to the spirit) on the paths of righteousness (to fulfill the requirement of righteousness—Rom. 8:4). To be righteous, that is, to be right with persons, matters, and things before God according to His righteous and strict requirements, we need to be revived and transformed in our soul in order to be proper and balanced in our mind, emotion, and will. (Psa. 23:3, footnote 1)

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Our problem was that we were like sheep being led astray. But now we have returned, turned back, to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. We should not think that in 1 Peter 2:25 Peter uses *soul* as a synonym of *spirit*...A shepherd takes care of the physical needs of his flock, and Christ our Shepherd takes care of the needs of our soul...We all have a spirit, and the spirit is our inward organ. But our being is a soul. Therefore, Christ mainly shepherds us by taking care of our soul. He takes care of our mind, emotion, and will.

We may think that our problems are with the body. No doubt, the body does give us many problems.

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Nevertheless, our real problem is in our soul. Our mind, emotion, and will all have problems. Unbelievers are wanderers in the soul, and they do not have a shepherd to take care of them. But our situation is different in that we have a Shepherd who takes care of our soul. Not only do we have the Lord's life within us, but we also have Him as our Shepherd. He is now shepherding us in our soul.

I would ask you to consider this matter of the Lord's shepherding according to your experience. Do you experience the Lord's comfort and sense His comfort in your spirit or in your soul?...If you say that His comfort is in the spirit, your answer is not according to the Bible. Before you came into the Lord's recovery, you may not have known that you had a human spirit. But since you have been in the church life, you have seen the revelation concerning the human spirit. But this revelation may have now become to you a new kind of tradition. To say that Christ's comfort is in our spirit is to speak according to a new tradition concerning the spirit. Many times we speak of turning to the spirit, perhaps expecting that when we turn to the spirit, everything will be all right. Actually, even after we turn to the spirit, many things may not be all right. From experience Peter knew to say that Christ is the Shepherd of our souls. Therefore, Peter does not tell us in verse 25 that Christ is the Shepherd of our spirit or of our body; He clearly says that He is the Shepherd of our souls.

This Epistle was written to Jewish Christians who were suffering much persecution. Apparently, persecution is related to our body outwardly. Actually, persecution is aimed at the soul. Because it is our soul that suffers, it is our soul that needs the Lord's shepherding. It is not our body that needs this kind of care, nor is it mainly our spirit. It is our soul—our mind, our emotion, and our will—that needs the Lord as the Shepherd. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, pp. 190-192)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 57

**Related Verses****Matt. 11:28-30**

**28** Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

**John 4:34**

**34** Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.

**John 5:30**

**30** I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

**John 6:38**

**38** For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.

**Gen. 1:26, 31**

**26** And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

**31** And God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Gen. 2:2-3, 15**

**2** And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

**3** And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

**15** And Jehovah God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it.

**Related Reading**

[Matthew 11:28] refers not only to the toil of striving to keep the commandments of the law and religious regulations but also to the toil of struggling to be

successful in any work. Whoever toils thus is always heavily burdened. After the Lord extolled the Father, acknowledging the Father's way and declaring the divine economy, He called this kind of people to come to Him for rest. (Matt. 11:28, footnote 1)

Rest refers not only to being set free from the toil and burden under the law or religion or under any work or responsibility, but also to perfect peace and full satisfaction. (Matt. 11:28, footnote 2)

To take the Lord's yoke is to take the will of the Father. It is not to be regulated or controlled by any obligation of the law or religion or to be enslaved by any work, but to be constrained by the will of the Father. The Lord lived such a life, caring for nothing but the will of His Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38). He submitted Himself fully to the Father's will (Matt. 26:39, 42). Hence, He asks us to learn from Him. (Matt. 11:29, footnote 2)

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To be meek, or gentle, means not to resist opposition, and to be lowly means not to have self-esteem. Throughout all the opposition the Lord was meek, and throughout all the rejection He was lowly in heart. He submitted Himself fully to the will of His Father, not wanting to do anything for Himself or expecting to gain something for Himself. Hence, regardless of the situation He had rest in His heart; He was fully satisfied with His Father's will. (Matt. 11:29, footnote 3)

The rest that we find by taking the Lord's yoke and learning from Him is for our souls. It is an inward rest; it is not anything merely outward in nature. (Matt. 11:29, footnote 4)

The Lord's yoke is the Father's will, and His burden is the work of carrying out the Father's will. Such a yoke is easy, not bitter, and such a burden is light, not heavy. (Matt. 11:30, footnote 1)

The Greek word [translated "easy"] means "fit for use"; hence, good, kind, mild, gentle, easy, pleasant—in contrast to hard, harsh, sharp, bitter. (Matt. 11:30, footnote 2)

In our experience sometimes we just do not know...where to direct our thoughts. This is an indication that our mind needs the Lord Jesus as the Shepherd...As

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a result of His shepherding, our mind is directed and set in the right way.

Our emotion, being complicated, is easily upset...Therefore, we need the Lord Jesus to shepherd us in our emotion. His shepherding comforts our emotion.

Our will also needs the Lord's shepherding. As human beings, we often find it difficult to make the right decision. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to make a decision. Unbelievers have no one to lead them and guide them in making decisions. But we have a Shepherd to lead us and guide us. The Lord's leading and guiding are primarily related to our will. As the living Shepherd, the Lord continually directs our will...The Lord is truly the Shepherd of our soul. He directs our mind, comforts our emotion, and leads and guides our will.

According to my experience, there is a difference between leading and guiding. Leading is related to a destination. Suppose you are driving from your home to a certain city. A road map may lead you to your destination. But once you arrive at that city, you will need a guide, someone to direct you to the exact place where you want to go...For instance, on the one hand, the Lord will lead His people to the Holy Land. But once He has led them there, He will guide them to Mount Zion.

As our Shepherd, the Lord leads us first and then guides us. He leads us to the right place, and He guides us to the exact spot. This is Christ, our Shepherd. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, p. 192)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 58

**Saturday 3/29**

**Related Verses****Phil. 2:2**

2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

**Phil. 3:1**

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe.

**Phil. 2:5-12**

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,  
6 Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped,  
7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men;  
8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.  
9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,  
10 That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.  
12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

**Related Reading**

The dissension among the Philippians was due to their not being joined in soul, to their not thinking the one thing in their mind, the leading part of their soul...They had Christ in their spirit through regeneration, but they did not have Christ in their soul through transformation. Only by having Christ saturate and occupy their entire soul could they be made one in soul. (Phil. 2:2, footnote 5)

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For years we have spoken about the experience of Christ and the enjoyment of Christ, but we have not seen the detailed way to enjoy Christ. Therefore, I have been burdened to give a number of messages on the way to enjoy Christ. In order to enjoy Him, we need to deal with every part of our soul, especially with our mind. If our way of thinking is dealt with, we will have the proper taste for Christ, and we will both experience Him and enjoy Him. We will not only eat but enjoy what we are eating. Whether or not we enjoy the food we eat depends upon our taste. Concerning Christ, our taste is mainly with our soul. This is the reason that concerning the experience of Christ and the enjoyment of Christ, we need to deal with the various parts of our soul. (*CWWL*, 1978, vol. 1, "The Experience of Christ," pp. 341-342)

In order to be our living Shepherd, it is necessary for Christ to dwell within us [as the life-giving Spirit]...For Christ to be our Shepherd, He must be with us, even in us. Many times He goes along with us in order to turn us back. Consider how the Lord was the Shepherd to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. These disciples were going in one direction, but the Lord went with them in order to turn them to go in another direction. Luke 24:15 says, "While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them." Then He asked them what they were talking about. In a sense, these disciples rebuked the Lord when they said, "Do You alone dwell as a stranger in Jerusalem and not know the things which have taken place in it in these days?" (v. 18). Then the Lord asked, "What things?" (v. 19). After walking awhile together, they constrained the Lord to stay with them (v. 29). Then, as He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, "their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him" (vv. 30-31). This is an example of the Lord's shepherding.

Sometimes the Lord shepherds us in the same way that He shepherded the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We also may speak to Him in a nonsensical way or ask Him nonsensical questions. We may even rebuke Him, and He may pretend not to know what we are talking about. Many of us can testify of having the Lord Jesus shepherd us in this way.

According to 1 Peter 2:25, Christ is also the Overseer of our souls.

The New Testament reveals that an overseer is an elder and that an elder is an overseer. In 5:1-3 Peter gives a word to the elders concerning the shepherding of the flock of God. What is the function of an overseer? The Greek word for overseer means "one who oversees a particular condition or situation." This word seems to indicate someone above us who takes oversight concerning us and watches what we are doing. However, according to our experience, the Lord as the Overseer is One who cares for us. For Him to oversee us means that He takes care of us. As the Overseer, the Lord does not govern us or rule over us. Rather, He cares for us as a mother cares for her child. A mother oversees her child with the purpose of caring for the child. She wants to take care of every need. The same is true of Christ as our Overseer. (*Life-study of 1 Peter*, pp. 192-194)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 Peter*, msg. 21

**Lord's Day 3/30****Related Verses****1 Pet. 2:11-20**

**11** Beloved, I entreat you as strangers and sojourners to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul,  
**12** Having your manner of life excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the matter concerning which they speak against you as evildoers they may, by your good works, as they see them with their own eyes, glorify God in the day of His visitation.

**13** Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to a king as being supreme,

**14** Or to governors as being sent by him for vengeance on evildoers and praise of those who do good.

**15** For so is the will of God, that by doing good you would muzzle the ignorance of foolish men;

**16** As free, and yet not having freedom as a covering for evil, but as slaves of God.

**17** Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

**18** Household servants, be subject in all fear to your masters, not only to the good and forbearing but also to the crooked.

**19** For this is grace, if anyone, because of a consciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering unjustly.

**20** For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.

**Further Reading:**

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 56

**Hymn: #1170**

**1** The Lord is my Shepherd forever,  
 He maketh me down to lie,  
 He leads me beside the still waters  
 O how He does satisfy!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 All the days, all the days of my life;  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 All the days, all the days of my life.  
 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever,  
 And I shall feast at the table spread for me;  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 All the days, all the days of my life.

**2** My Shepherd Himself is my pasture,  
 My Shepherd, the waters of rest;  
 I eat of His riches in spirit,  
 I drink, and O how I am blest!

**3** My Shepherd my soul is restoring,  
 My will, and emotion, and mind;  
 And though through the valley I'm walking,  
 O what a Companion I find!

**4** A table prepared by my Shepherd  
 I feast on and Satan destroy;  
 My head is anointed with oil,  
 My cup runneth over with joy!

**5** And now in His house I am dwelling  
 Enjoying the goodness of God;  
 My pleasure is far beyond telling,  
 My pleasure is Jesus my Lord!

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis****Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 8

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 15-16

**Level 2—Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Dominion

Scripture: Gen. 1:26

Assigned Reading: *The Central Line of the Divine Revelation*, ch. 8

Supplemental Reading: *The Way for a Christian to Mature in Life*, chs. 12, 14

Questions: See the church website at

[churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)