

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH: GOSPEL OF JOHN
BELIEVING JESUS THE CHRIST: 20. SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK: C) REASONS
MORNING, APRIL 25, 2021

KEY TEXT: JOHN 10:1-21; compare Acts 20:17-35; 1 Thessalonians 2; 1 Timothy 3; 1 Peter 4:10-11

INTRODUCTION:

-Jesus will “fall into the ground and die” to bring forth much f (John 12:23-24): His death uniquely saves, but this will also serve as a p for us (12:25-26)

I/ PASSION: The Shepherd Loves His Sheep

1. Devoted to Christ and His Church (compare John 13:34-35)

i) pastors must first of all love Christ, and then the sheep for His sake: God p the flock (Acts 20:28); we wait for the Chief Shepherd to a; this corrects two dangers:

- questionable m of “false teachers” (1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 3:1-12; 2 Peter 2; 2 and 3 John)
- being crushed by the b of the church

ii) “sheep” must love the pastor for his w sake (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; see 1 Timothy 5; Hebrews 13:7,17)

2. Disciplined by Grace: 1 Timothy 4:11-16; compare 2 Timothy 2:1-10

-devotion for the church means dedication to the things that b the church like public r

-discipline is underlined by three metaphors in 2 Timothy 2: the f; the s; the a

-a struggle for life: 1 Tim.4:16 – s yourself and your hearers; 2 Timothy 2:22-26 – e

3. Delighting in Growth: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; compare 2 John 4; 3 John 2-4

-“p” spend themselves for the children so they will be “perfect” – that is, m (2 Timothy 3:17)

II/ PURPOSE: The Shepherd Has a Goal

1. Serving the Lord

-c with Christ in order to prepare His b: 2 Cor.11:1-2; to perform the ministry of r: 2 Cor.5:17-6:1; and to build up the b: Ephesians 4:11-16: all of this to enable serving the Lord

2. Staying the Course: Acts 20:24; compare 2 Timothy 4:6ff

-Paul has a mission; it is his goal to f his course; compare Romans 15

3. Showing The Gospel: 1 Timothy 3:1-7: because of the t of testimony to God’s saving plan (1 Tim.2:3-7):

- Sober Character (3:2-3): God’s appointees must show sober s: f to his calling and relationships, including marriage, finances, habits, temper (compare 2 Timothy 2:22-26)
- Skilled Leadership (3:2, 4-6): the main skill is t (v.2) that leads to g godliness: essential in leaders because they serve as “e to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3; see Ephesians 4:25-5:17)
- Sincere Conduct (3:7): there is to be a “good r” towards outsiders; to “a the Gospel” (Titus 2:1, 9-10)

4. Seeing His Glory: 1 Peter 4:10-11; compare John 15:7-8

-Peter draws the two broad categories of s and s; in both cases, we draw from the Lord alone – the message is His, and the strength comes from Him

-but notice especially the goal: for God’s glory; compare 1 Peter 2:9-10: show forth His p!

-in one final “I am” statement, Jesus declares in John 15 that “I am the vine, you are the branches”: Jesus notes, “herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much f; so shall ye be my disciples”!

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH
KINGS: “WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION”
C. ABIJAH, ASA AND JEHOSEPHAT: TAKE HEED LEST YOU FALL!
EVENING, APRIL 25, 2021

KEY TEXT: 1 KINGS 15:1-24; 22:41-50; 1 Corinthians 10

INTRODUCTION:

I/ TESTED FAITH

1. Abijah: “Dull of Hearing” (1 Kings 15:1-8; compare 2 Chronicles 13; see Hebrews 5:11-14)
 - Abijah carried on Rehoboam’s policies and patterns – a heart not perfect with the Lord
 - he is not destroyed purely because of grace: demonstrates the faithfulness of God to His promises to David
2. Asa: Devoted to Reform (1 Kings 15:9-24; 2 Chronicles 14-16)
 - Asa made the first real attempt since Solomon’s late failures to deal with idolatry in the land, going so far as to depose his mother, who had worshiped Asherah/Ashtoreth, a female Canaanite goddess: 15:14 stands as a contrast to Abijah, 15:3
 - but in border skirmishes with Baasha of Israel he made a treaty with Ben-Hadad of Syria instead of trusting the Lord
3. Jehoshaphat: Dedicated to the Lord (1 Kings 22:41-50; 2 Chronicles 17-20)
 - Jehoshaphat follows in his father’s way, but without stumbling in terms of perseverance; he, too (according to Chronicles) is an example of trusting the Lord against great enemies, and does much to promote worship and justice
 - tried to reconcile with the Northern Kingdom: tragically, overlooked the overt idolatry under Ahab’s worship of Baal
 - nevertheless, never stopped seeking the Lord, and accepted the rebukes from the prophets

II/ TAKING HEED LEST WE FALL

1. Temptations “Common to Man” (1 Corinthians 10:11-14)
 - a) Complacency: Abijah’s maintenance of the ‘*status quo*’
 - Abijah saw no reason from Rehoboam’s experience to change policy: same heart issue; no urgency to pursue a closer walk with God (contrast Philippians 3:7-14, “pressing toward the mark”)
 - b) Self-Confidence: Asa’s self-reliance in the “lesser” things!
 - when faced with an obviously overwhelming trial, Asa trusts God (read his prayer, 2 Chronicles 14:11); when faced with a minor border skirmish, he relies on his own resources; John 15:5 is rather blunt – without Him, we can do *nothing!*
 - c) “Communion with Devils” (1 Corinthians 10:20): Jehoshaphat’s Alliance with Ahab
 - in a situation close to 1 Cor.10, he treats Ahab’s Baal-worship as a character trait to be rebuked, but not rejected; remember the key application in 1 Cor.10:14 is “flee from idolatry” (compare 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)
2. “But God is Faithful”: The Way to Escape
 - even with Abijah, we are reminded of the faithfulness of God, which remains our great hope (1 Thessalonians 5:24)
 - from these kings, we can suggest a number of “ways to escape” the Lord has given us:
 - *Accept Correction and Rebuke*: Asa was angered by rebuke, and lashed out at prophetic voices that tried to show him his error; Jehoshaphat seemed more ready to accept it; the Bible is honest with us – we will stumble: if anyone says he has no sin, he is a liar after all! When God disciplines us, do we listen?
 - *Acknowledge the Conflict*: in 2 Corinthians 2, Paul urges the church to forgive a sinner and restore him, because division is one of the instruments in the Devil’s toolbox: and we are not ignorant of his devices!
 - *Advance Constantly*: persevere to the end; there is danger in stopping too soon! “Press toward the mark”, as we noted from Paul; there is a great danger in failing to realize we are at war (compare 2 Timothy 4)
 - *Apply the Faith Comprehensively*:
 - regarding prayer, Ephesians 6:18: all prayer, at all times, for all saints, with all perseverance!
 - regarding circumstances: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: always rejoice; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks
 - regarding sufficiency, 2 Corinthians 9:8: all grace from God so that always we have all we need in all things so that we abound in all good works (and see also Philippians 4:13, 19 in light of John 15:5; 2 Peter 1:3-4)