

John 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Analysis

The repetition 'I am the good shepherd' (also v. 11) employs Semitic emphasis, with 'good' (Greek 'kalos') meaning noble, beautiful, ideal—in contrast to hirelings. The mutual knowledge—'I know my sheep, and am known of mine'—describes intimate relationship, not mere acquaintance. This echoes Jeremiah 31:34 and anticipates the New Covenant's personal knowledge of God. The parallel structure ('I know...known of mine') demonstrates reciprocal relationship.

Historical Context

Ezekiel 34 condemns Israel's wicked shepherds (leaders) and promises God will shepherd His people personally. Jesus claims to fulfill this prophecy. David, Israel's greatest king, was a shepherd—Jesus is the greater David.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does knowing Christ personally differ from knowing about Him intellectually?
2. In what ways do you recognize Christ's voice amidst competing voices?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγώ	εἰμι	ὁ	ποιμήν	ὁ	καλός	καὶ	γινώσκωμαι	τὰ
I	am	G3588	shepherd	G3588	the good	and	am known	G3588
G1473	G1510		G4166		G2570	G2532	G1097	
ἐμῶν	καὶ	γινώσκωμαι	ὑπὸ	τῶν	ἐμῶν			
mine	and	am known	of	G3588	mine			
G1699	G2532	G1097	G5259		G1699			

Additional Cross-References

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 10:11 (Good): I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

1 John 5:20 (Parallel theme): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Ephesians 1:17 (Parallel theme): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

John 17:3 (Parallel theme): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Revelation 2:2 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Psalms 1:6 (Parallel theme): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Philippians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,