

John 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Analysis

Jesus declares perfect mutual knowledge between Himself and believers, paralleling His relationship with the Father. This mutual knowledge isn't merely information but intimate relationship - knowing and being known personally. Christ's declaration 'I lay down my life for the sheep' demonstrates the ultimate proof of the Good Shepherd's love - voluntary death for His own.

Historical Context

The sacrifice of Christ stands in stark contrast to hirelings who flee danger. Jesus' voluntary death for His sheep demonstrates love that no false shepherd could match.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to know Christ and be known by Him intimately?
2. How does Christ's voluntary death for you prove His shepherd love?
3. In what ways do you experience being known by Christ?

Interlinear Text

καθὼς γινώσκω με ὁ πατέρα κάγὼ γινώσκω τὸν
As know me the G3588 I the Father even so know G3588
G2531 G1097 G3165 G3962 G2504 G1097

πατέρα καὶ τὴν ψυχήν μου τίθημι ὑπὲρ τῶν
I the Father and G3588 life my I lay down for G3588
G3962 G2532 G5590 G3450 G5087 G5228

προβάτων

the sheep

G4263

Additional Cross-References

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

Galatians 1:4 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Isaiah 53:10 (Parallel theme): Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

1 John 2:2 (Parallel theme): And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

1 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Ephesians 5:2 (Parallel theme): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Matthew 20:28 (Parallel theme): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

John 15:13 (Parallel theme): Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.