

John 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Analysis

The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. Legitimate authority isn't seized but received through proper means. This verse emphasizes ordained ministry - those called, equipped, and authorized by God to shepherd His flock. The Reformed tradition values orderly calling to ministry over self-appointed religious leadership.

Historical Context

Shepherding was considered lowly work in first-century culture, yet Jesus uses it to describe spiritual leadership. This contrasts with the Pharisees' prideful religious authority that exploited rather than served.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does proper calling to spiritual leadership look like?
2. How do you recognize self-appointed versus God-appointed leaders?
3. What characterizes true shepherding versus religious careerism?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	εἰσερχόμενος	διὰ	τῆς	θύρας	ποιμήν	ἐστιν
G3588	But	he that entereth in	by	G3588	the door	the shepherd	is
G1161		G1525	G1223		G2374	G4166	G2076
τῶν	προβάτων						
G3588	of the sheep						
	G4263						

Additional Cross-References

John 10:14 (Parallel theme): I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Acts 20:28 (Parallel theme): Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Psalms 23:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

1 Peter 5:4 (Parallel theme): And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Ecclesiastes 12:11 (Parallel theme): The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

Hebrews 13:20 (Parallel theme): Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Psalms 80:1 (Parallel theme): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Zechariah 11:5 (Parallel theme): Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not.

Zechariah 11:8 (Parallel theme): Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

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