

# GENERAL SUBJECT: THE NEED FOR A NEW REVIVAL

## Message Five

### Shepherding according to God

#### (1)

### Shepherding People by Cherishing and Nourishing Them according to the Pattern of the Lord Jesus and of the Apostle Paul

DT Hymns: 782, 910

Scripture Reading: John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4; Eph. 5:29; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:20, 28, 31;  
2 Cor. 11:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:22; 2 Cor. 12:15; 1 Cor. 8:1; 13:4-8a

- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant,
- 1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- Acts 20:20 How I did not withhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring them to you and by not teaching you publicly and from house to house,
- Acts 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.
- Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
- 2 Cor 11:28 Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.
- 2 Cor 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is stumbled, and I myself do not burn?
- 1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.
- 2 Cor 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?
- 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
- 1 Cor 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
- 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
- 1 Cor 13:6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1 Cor 13:8a Love never falls away. ...

#### **I. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the Lord Jesus in His ministry for carrying out God's eternal economy—Matt. 9:36; John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4:**

- Matt 9:36 And seeing the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and cast away like sheep not having a shepherd.
- John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
- Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant,
- 1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- A. The content of God's entire New Testament economy in His complete salvation is Christ as the Son of Man cherishing us and as the Son of God nourishing us—Eph. 5:29:
- Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
1. Christ as the Son of Man came to redeem us from sin, accomplishing His judicial redemption through His death (1 Tim. 1:15; Eph. 1:7)—cherishing.
 

1 Tim 1:15 Faithful is the word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
  2. Christ as the Son of God came to impart the divine life into us abundantly, carrying out His organic salvation in His resurrection (John 10:10; 1 Cor. 15:45b)—nourishing.
 

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- B. In Luke 15 the Lord Jesus unveiled the saving love of the Triune God for sinners—vv. 1-2:
- Luke 15 be omitted.
- Luke 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were drawing near to Him to hear Him.
- Luke 15:2 And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured among themselves, saying, This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.
1. We need to follow the steps of the processed Triune God in seeking and gaining fallen people—vv. 3-7, 8-10, 17-18.
 

Luke 15:3 And He told them this parable, saying,

Luke 15:4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

Luke 15:5 And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

Luke 15:6 And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.

Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.

Luke 15:8 Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one silver coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek carefully until she finds it?

Luke 15:9 And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost.

Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner repenting.

Luke 15:17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!

Luke 15:18 I will rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
  2. Our not having the Father's loving and forgiving heart and the Savior's shepherding and seeking spirit is the reason for our barrenness.
  3. We need to cherish people (to make them happy and to make them feel pleasant and comfortable) in the humanity of Jesus—Matt. 9:10; Luke 7:34.
 

Matt 9:10 And as He was reclining at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined together with Jesus and His disciples.

Luke 7:34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.
  4. We need to nourish people (to feed them with the all-inclusive Christ in His ministry of three stages) in the divinity of Christ—Matt. 24:45-47.
 

Matt 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Matt 24:47 Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his possessions.

- C. Christ came not as a Judge but as a Physician to heal, recover, enliven, and save the lepers (8:2-4), paralytics (vv. 5-13; 9:2-8), the fever-ridden (8:14-15), the demon-possessed (vv. 16, 28-32), those ill with all kinds of diseases (v. 16), despised tax collectors, and sinners (9:9-11) that they might become reconstituted to become people of His heavenly kingdom—vv. 12-13.
- Matt 8:2 And behold, a leper, coming near, worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can cleanse me.
- Matt 8:3 And stretching out His hand, He touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed! And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
- Matt 8:4 And Jesus said to him, See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift which Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.
- Matt 8:5 And when He entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, beseeching Him
- Matt 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant is lying in the house paralyzed, terribly tormented.
- Matt 8:7 And He said to him, I will come and heal him.
- Matt 8:8 But the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not fit for You to enter under my roof; but only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
- Matt 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed, Truly I say to you, With no one in Israel have I found such great faith.
- Matt 8:11 But I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and will recline at table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens,
- Matt 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.
- Matt 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, Go; as you have believed, so be it done to you. And his servant was healed in that hour.
- Matt 9:2 And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, Take courage, child; your sins are forgiven.
- Matt 9:3 And behold, some of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemes.
- Matt 9:4 And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, Why are you thinking evil things in your hearts?
- Matt 9:5 For which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Rise and walk?
- Matt 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the paralytic, Rise, take up your bed and go to your house.
- Matt 9:7 And he rose and went away to his house.
- Matt 9:8 And when the crowds saw this, they feared and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.
- Matt 8:14 And Jesus, coming into Peter's house, saw his mother-in-law lying down and in a fever.
- Matt 8:15 And He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served Him.
- Matt 8:16 And when evening fell, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed, and He cast out the spirits with a word, and all those who were ill He healed,
- Matt 8:28 And when He came to the other side, into the region of the Gadarenes, two possessed by demons met Him, as they were coming out of the tombs, so exceedingly fierce that no one was able to pass by on that road.
- Matt 8:29 And behold, they cried out, saying, What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here before the time to torment us?
- Matt 8:30 Now there was, a good way off from them, a herd of many hogs feeding.
- Matt 8:31 And the demons entreated Him, saying, If You cast us out, send us into the herd of hogs.
- Matt 8:32 And He said to them, Go! And they came out and went into the hogs. And behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep slope into the sea, and they died in the waters.
- Matt 9:9 And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man sitting at the tax office, called Matthew, and He said to him, Follow Me. And he rose and followed Him.
- Matt 9:10 And as He was reclining at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined together with Jesus and His disciples.
- Matt 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with the tax collectors and sinners?
- Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.

- Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- D. He had to pass through Samaria, purposely detouring to Sychar to gain one immoral woman, cherishing her by asking her to give Him something to drink that He might nourish her with the flowing Triune God as the water of life—John 4:3-14.
- John 4:3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.
- John 4:4 And He had to pass through Samaria.
- John 4:5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob gave to Joseph his son;
- John 4:6 And Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from the journey, sat thus by the well; it was about the sixth hour.
- John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me something to drink.
- John 4:8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.
- John 4:9 The Samaritan woman then said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, who am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
- John 4:11 The woman said to Him, Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?
- John 4:12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?
- John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again,
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
- E. As the One without sin, He did not condemn the adulterous woman but cherished her for the forgiveness of her sins judicially and for the setting free from her sins organically—8:1-11, 32, 36.
- John 8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
- John 8:2 And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him, and He sat down and taught them.
- John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst,
- John 8:4 They said to Him, Teacher, this woman has been caught committing adultery, in the very act.
- John 8:5 Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. What then do You say?
- John 8:6 But they said this to tempt Him, so that they might have reason to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote with His finger on the ground.
- John 8:7 But when they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.
- John 8:8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.
- John 8:9 And when they heard that, they went out one by one, beginning with the older ones. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman stood where she was, in the midst.
- John 8:10 And Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?
- John 8:11 And she said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.
- John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.
- John 8:36 If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.
- F. He went to Jericho just to visit and gain one person, a chief tax collector, and His preaching was a shepherding—Luke 19:1-10.
- Luke 19:1 And He entered and was passing through Jericho.
- Luke 19:2 And behold, there was a man whose name was called Zaccheus; and he was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

- Luke 19:3 And he was seeking to see Jesus, who He was, and could not because of the crowd, for he was small in stature.
- Luke 19:4 And he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way.
- Luke 19:5 And as He came to the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay in your house.
- Luke 19:6 And he hurried and came down, and received Him, rejoicing.
- Luke 19:7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, He has gone in to lodge with a sinful man.
- Luke 19:8 And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much.
- Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham.
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost.
- G. He cherished the parents by laying His hands on their children—Matt. 19:13-15.
- Matt 19:13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.
- Matt 19:14 But Jesus said, Allow the little children and do not prevent them from coming to Me, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 19:15 And after He laid His hands on them, He went on from there.
- H. The first one saved by Christ through His crucifixion was a robber sentenced to death—Luke 23:42-43.
- Luke 23:42 And he said, Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
- Luke 23:43 And He said to him, Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.
- I. The Lord's commissioning Peter to feed His lambs and shepherd His sheep was to incorporate the apostolic ministry with His heavenly ministry to take care of God's flock, which is the church that issues in the Body of Christ—John 21:15-17; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; 2:25; cf. Heb. 13:17:
- John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.
- John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.
- John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
- Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant,
- 1 Pet 5:1 Therefore the elders among you I exhort, who am a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory to be revealed:
- 1 Pet 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion but willingly, according to God; not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly;
- 1 Pet 5:3 Nor as lording it over your allotments but by becoming patterns of the flock.
- 1 Pet 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- 1 Pet 2:25 For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- Heb 13:17 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. In His heavenly ministry, Christ as the High Priest, with a golden girdle on His breast, is cherishing and nourishing the churches—Rev. 1:12-13.
- Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands,
- Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle.

2. In His heavenly ministry, Christ is the Great Shepherd of the sheep to consummate the New Jerusalem according to God's eternal covenant—Heb. 13:20-21.

Heb 13:20 Now the God of peace, He who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, in the blood of an eternal covenant,

Heb 13:21 Perfect you in every good work for the doing of His will, doing in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **II. We need to shepherd people according to the pattern of the apostle Paul as a good shepherd, taking care of God's flock—1 Tim. 1:16; Acts 20:28:**

- 1 Tim 1:16 But because of this I was shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display all His long-suffering for a pattern to those who are to believe on Him unto eternal life.
- Acts 20:28 Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.
- A. Paul shepherded the saints as a nursing mother and an exhorting father—1 Thes. 2:7-8, 11-12.
- 1 Thes 2:7 But we were gentle in your midst, as a nursing mother would cherish her own children.
- 1 Thes 2:8 Yearning in this way over you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us.
- 1 Thes 2:11 Just as you know how we were to each one of you, as a father to his own children, exhorting you and consoling you and testifying,
- 1 Thes 2:12 So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- B. Paul shepherded the saints in Ephesus by teaching them “publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20) and by admonishing each one of them with tears even for as long as three years (vv. 31, 19), declaring to them all the counsel of God (v. 27).
- Acts 20:20 How I did not withhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring them to you and by not teaching you publicly and from house to house,
- Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
- Acts 20:19 Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews;
- Acts 20:27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you all the counsel of God.
- C. Second Corinthians 3:2-3 reveals that Paul wrote living letters of Christ with the life-giving Spirit as the essence:
- 2 Cor 3:2 You are our letter, inscribed in our hearts, known and read by all men,
- 2 Cor 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.
1. Because the believers are a letter of Christ, they are also the letter inscribed in the heart of the apostles; today while we are ministering Christ to others, Christ is simultaneously written in the one to whom we are ministering and also in us.
  2. This means that we can never forget those to whom we have ministered Christ; the one writing produces two original copies and involves two hearts becoming one.
- D. Paul had an intimate concern for the believers—7:3; Philem. 7, 12.
- 2 Cor 7:3 I do not say this to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts for our dying together and our living together.
- Philem 7 For I had much joy and encouragement over your love, because the inward parts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.
- Philem 12 Him I have sent back to you—him, that is, my very heart—
- E. He came down to the weak ones' level so that he could gain them—2 Cor. 11:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:22; cf. Matt. 12:20.
- 2 Cor 11:28 Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.

- 2 Cor 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is stumbled, and I myself do not burn?  
 1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak that I might gain the weak. To all men I have become all things that I might by all means save some.  
 Matt 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench until He brings forth justice unto victory.
- F. He was willing to spend what he had, referring to his possessions, and to spend what he was, referring to his being, for the sake of the saints—2 Cor. 12:15.  
 2 Cor 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?
- G. He was a drink offering, one with Christ as the wine producer, sacrificing himself for others' enjoyment of Christ—Phil. 2:17; Judg. 9:13; Eph. 3:2.  
 Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.  
 Judg 9:13 But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?  
 Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- H. He was a minister of the Spirit to honor God by being filled with the Spirit to walk by the Spirit for His glory and to honor man by ministering the Spirit to them for their supply—2 Cor. 3:6, 8; Gal. 5:16, 25; Judg. 9:9.  
 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.  
 2 Cor 3:8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory?  
 Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
 Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.  
 Judg 9:9 But the olive tree said to them, Shall I leave my fatness, because of which God and men are honored by me, and go to wave over the trees?
- I. Paul indicated in his teaching that the church is a home to raise up people, a hospital to heal and recover them, and a school to teach and edify them—Eph. 2:19; 1 Thes. 5:14; 1 Cor. 14:31.  
 Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,  
 1 Thes 5:14 And we exhort you, brothers, Admonish the disorderly, console the fainthearted, sustain the weak, be long-suffering toward all.  
 1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.
- J. Paul revealed that love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and to do anything for the building up of the Body of Christ—8:1; 12:31; 13:4-8a.  
 1 Cor 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.  
 1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.  
 1 Cor 13:4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;  
 1 Cor 13:5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;  
 1 Cor 13:6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;  
 1 Cor 13:7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
 1 Cor 13:8a Love never falls away. ...

**III. “I hope that there will be a genuine revival among us by our receiving this burden of shepherding. If all the churches receive this teaching to participate in Christ’s wonderful shepherding, there will be a big revival in the recovery”—*The Vital Groups*, p. 40.**