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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**2 Peter 2:4-14**  
**Lesson #8**  
**Good shepherds**  
**10/07/2021**

**Post-it note to God**

*If you really are my Good Shepherd  
you should make my path in this life:*

**smooth and paved  
straight and level  
exciting and fun  
easy and painless  
with no obstacles  
and no surprises  
and no waiting**

**from the  
American  
dream center**

1




**Hard Obstacles  
Failure & Frustration**

NBC 2

## 2 Peter **Finding our way as aliens in this World**

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith  1:1-4	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.  1:5-15 1:16-21	Control <b>your</b> expectations and responses.  2:1-22	Clarify true and false hope.  3:1-18
	Holiness	Heresy	Hope



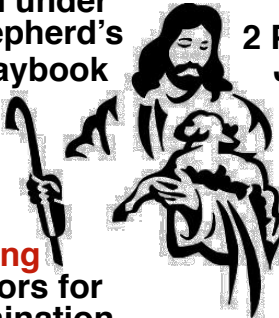
**Alien life coaching**

**Aliens need good shepherds to feed, guard, and equip them.**

3

**The Good Shepherd**  
**pastures (feed), protects (guard),**  
**and prepares (equip) the sheep.**

An under shepherd's playbook




**2 Peter 2  
Jude**

- **Exposing predators for extermination**
- **Equipping sheep for endurance**

4

“In early 1960, as I was finishing my first year at Dallas Theological Seminary, I took a course from Dr. Howard Hendricks that would mark my life and ministry forever.”

**Howard Hendricks**



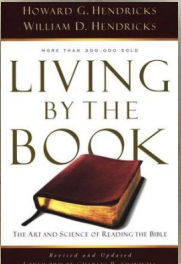
HOWARD G. HENDRICKS  
WILLIAM D. HENDRICKS

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS


**LIVING BY THE BOOK**

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF READING THE BIBLE

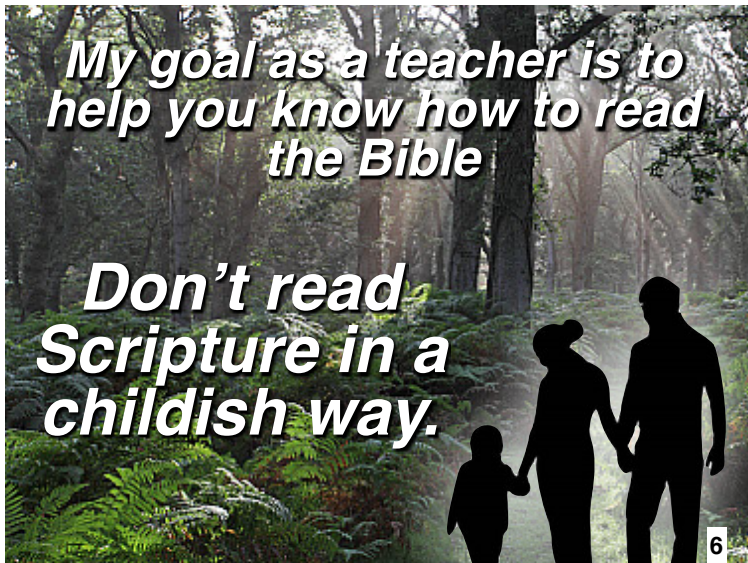
REVISED AND UPDATED  
FOREWORD BY CHUCK R. SWINDOLL



**Chuck Swindoll**



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### The immediate context

2 Peter 2:1

“there will also be **false teachers among you,**”

- The shepherd **ENLIGHTENS** the sheep and assures their alien status.

Hebrews 13

“13 Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, **bearing His reproach.** 14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.”

7

### Applications for us

- There is no city of refuge for Christ's disciples on this planet and in this age.
- We should not expect to be treated as royalty if we are aliens in this life.
- This world will not satisfy the longings of our hearts but that does not mean that we are abandoned by God.
- **Good shepherds remind us of these things and equip us in our responses to alien life.**

8

### The need for and role of good shepherds

2 Peter 2:1

“there will also be **false teachers among you,**”

- The shepherd **ENLIGHTENS** the sheep and assures their alien status.
- The shepherd **EXPOSES** the predators and assures the sheep of justice.
- The shepherd **ENCOURAGES** the sheep and assures them that they are not left alone in this broken world.

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### Listen to an under shepherd at work.

2 Peter 2

“4 For if God did not spare **angels** when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, held for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but protected **Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 and *if* He condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah** to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made *them* an example of what is coming for the ungodly;

10

7 and *if* He rescued righteous **Lot**, *who was* oppressed by the perverted conduct of unscrupulous people 8 (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man (Lot), while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds), 9 *then* the Lord knows how to **rescue** the godly from a trial, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of **judgment**, 10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt passion, and despise authority. Reckless, self-centered, they speak abusively of *angelic* majesties without trembling, 11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a demeaning judgment against them before the Lord.

11



"12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, using abusive speech where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions as they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having hearts trained in greed, accursed children;"

12

"15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of **Balaam, the son of Beor**, who loved the reward of unrighteousness; 16 but he received a rebuke for his own offense, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a human voice, restrained the insanity of the prophet."

- **Balaam (a Gentile prophet) who turned on Israel after speaking for Israel.**  
Num. 22-31, Rev. 2:14
- **This raises questions about "eternal security" that we will look at next week.**

13

- The shepherd **ENLIGHTENS** the sheep and assures their alien status.
- The shepherd **EXPOSES** the predators and assures their fate.
- The shepherd **ENCOURAGES** the sheep and assures them that they are not left alone.

*Note what he does not address:*

- How to change our circumstances.
- How to prosecute those who abuse us.
- How to prevent predators from doing their thing.

14

"The worst disease in today's world is not leprosy or cancer: it is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted, of being deserted and alone."

Mother Teresa

15

When asked what she had done to reduce poverty she said,

"I have spent most of my life trying to be one with the poor."

Mother Teresa

16

*Psalm 23:4*

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for **You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

*Matthew 28:20*

"I, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age."

*Hebrews 13:5*

"**I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.**"

17

### 1 Corinthians 10

“<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.** <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

- **God does not change our circumstances but empowers us to endure through them.**

18

### The shepherd's way is the Way of the Cross

#### John 10

“<sup>11</sup> **I am the good shepherd**; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> **He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep,** and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hireling, and is not concerned about the sheep.”

19

#### 1 Peter 5

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed, <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

20

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

#### 1 Peter 5

“<sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God **among** you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged

- not knowing or identifying with the sheep 21

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

#### 1 Peter 5

“<sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God **among** you, exercising **oversight**, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible

- “Mistakes were made, BUT NOT BY ME!” 22

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

#### 1 Peter 5

“<sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but **voluntarily**, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant

- viewing ministry as a chore or duty 23

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

1 Peter 5

"2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with **greed** but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock."

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish

- not as an opportunity to profit personally 24

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

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"2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as **domineering** over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock."

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish  
abusive

- an insensitive, disrespectful, bully 25

### Common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.

1 Peter 5

"2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be **examples** to the flock."

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish  
abusive  
hypocritical

- not modeling or showing the way 26

### Signs that we are probably following the Good Shepherd

**The Word of the Cross**  
is a positive  
audit of  
the past.

"I am forgiven  
and forgiving."

**The Way of the Cross**  
is a positive  
anticipation of  
the future.

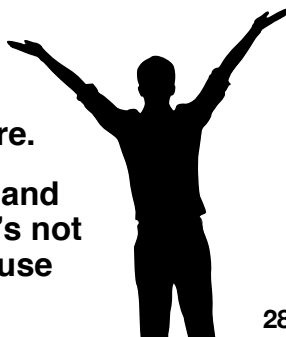
"I can follow  
without fear."

SHALOM

27

### Conclusions

- The world is not a **safe** place for sheep without good shepherds.
- Good shepherds will **sacrifice** themselves for the sheep.
- Good shepherds will not abandon the sheep but **equip** them to endure.
- In the end it will be just and good for the sheep. If it's not **just and good**, it's because it's not the end.



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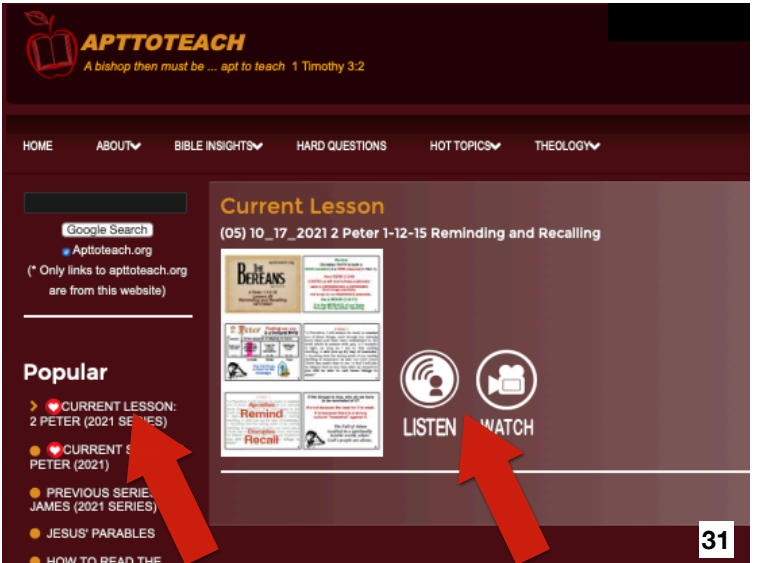
### Look for shepherds that:

- take their **baptism** seriously: self sacrificing, secure, gracious, loving.
- are good **examples** of the Word and Way of the Cross, and are peacemakers.
- are spiritually **wise**: majoring on majors, minoring on minors, mature, experienced.
- are **nurturing** the image of God in others: helping them to know self, accept self, get over self, give self (joyfully).

29



30



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