

## 1 Peter 2:25

The Good Shepherd willingly laid down His life for the sheep (John 10:11) and bore their sins in His body (1 Peter 2:24) and as a result of what the Shepherd did in His life and in His death, verse 25 is possible.

- Sheep by nature are prone to wondering and becoming easily lost and wayward without the guidance of a shepherd. This is the state of Christian when they are born. They are lost and wayward and have no direction for safety and rescue. Just like sheep, we are unable to find the way on our own. Sheep need a Shepherd to come and rescue them and that is exactly what Christ did for His Sheep.
- We did not come to our sense and come searching for the Shepherd, but rather in our hopelessness, the Good Shepherd came to seek and save His sheep that were lost (Luke 19:10)
- See the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15:1-7. Jesus is telling this parable to Pharisees because they are upset that the “low class sinners” are coming to Jesus and He is forgiving them and saving them. Jesus explains that the one who has sheep that is lost will seek and search for that sheep until he finds it. Once he finds the sheep, he puts the sheep on his shoulder and carries the sheep home rejoicing. What has to be recognized is that the sheep did not come to the shepherd, but rather the shepherd came to the sheep, picked it up, and rescued it. This is the same as what Jesus, the Good shepherd does to those who He saves and rescues. When the sheep are found and brought home there is rejoicing which is compared to the rejoicing in Heaven by the angels over a sinner that repents.

The word “returned” is the Greek word ἐπεστράφητε *epestraphēte*. The definition of this word is:

- returned: to turn towards; to turn round; to bring back, convert, to turn one's self upon or towards, to turn about,

This word is in the Aorist indicative passive, 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural.

- Aorist means expressing a past action. Indicative means being presented as fact. The word is used in 2<sup>nd</sup> person and being plural applies to more than one. The passive voice is used to show that the subject of the verb is acted on by an outside force. The subject receives the consequences of the action.
- This is showing the sovereign unilateral work of God in our regeneration and being born again. God the Holy Spirit seeks us and invades our souls to change the disposition of our hearts, minds, and wills. He takes out our heart of stone and puts in us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26) and changes our minds which are hostile to see the need for the Savior. He grants us repentance (John 6:65), (2 Timothy 2:24-26), (Phil 1:29) which is the Greek word *metanoia* which means a change of mind. Our minds are changed, we repent, place faith in Christ, and come to the shepherd! This is from God and God alone. We are acted upon by God as the passive tense of this word shows.

Jesus is described in 2 ways: 1.) Shepherd 2.) Guardian of our souls

### 1.) Shepherd.

- o He is the Good Shepherd who is the door for the sheep. He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the Sheep. He is the Good shepherd that holds His sheep and never lets one out of His arms. Read John 10, Psalm 23

### 2.) Guardian of your souls.

- o The word used for “guardian” in the Greek is the word *Episkopos*, *Episkopon* (bishop). The definition: an inspector, overseer; a watcher, guardian, ecclesiastical overseer.
- o The idea implied is that Christ inspects His sheep, He watches over them, and guards them so no one can steal them away and ensures they reach their final resting pasture, New Jerusalem!