

tender consideration, indeed. 2. As a good shepherd he was bound to protect his flock from all evil—constituting himself their helper in difficulties, and their defender in dangers. Jesus loved this illustration of the shepherd, and in enlarging its meaning to show his intimate relation to his disciples said, "I am the Good Shepherd." "The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."—*Rev. William D. Purr.*

### Analytical and Biblical Outline.

#### The Lord's Sheep.

##### I. THE SHEEP FED.

*In green pastures. v. 2.*

"I will feed my flock." Ezek. 34. 14, 15.

"Supply all your need." Phil. 4. 19.

##### II. THE SHEEP LED.

*He leadeth me. v. 2, 3.*

"They follow me." John 10. 27.

"I am with you always." Matt. 28. 20.

##### III. THE SHEEP GUARDED.

*Will fear no evil. v. 4.*

"I will be with thee." Isa. 43. 2.

"Whom shall I fear?" Psa. 27. 1.

##### IV. THE SHEEP COMFORTED.

*Thy rod and thy staff. v. 4.*

"Not leave you comfortless." John 14. 18.

"This is my comfort." Psa. 119. 50.

##### V. THE SHEEP BLESSED.

*Prepare a table. v. 5.*

"Give us all things." Rom. 8. 32.

"Give you the kingdom." Luke 12. 32.

##### VI. THE SHEEP FOLDED.

*Dwell in the house. v. 6.*

"One fold and one shepherd." John 10. 16.

"In the house of the Lord." Psa. 27. 4.

### Thoughts for Young People.

#### If We Belong to the Lord's Flock.

1. *We need have no anxiety or heart-ache.* For our Shepherd is limitless in wisdom and boundless in resources. He knows the best paths, the best nourishment, our worst enemies, and our sorriest weaknesses. He that is for us is more than all that can be against us.

2. *Our most delicate and subtle wants are met by our Shepherd.* The hardest experiences of life arise from being misunderstood. Our best and worst qualities are alike misapprehended by our best friends and our worst enemies. It seems impossible, sometimes, to find any body who knows just what we really are and what we really intend. We know what pastures of delight our hungry souls crave; we know what still waters we desire to lie down beside; we think we know the righteous path in which we long to walk; but how to get there, in the midst of universal misapprehensions

and misunderstandings, we know not. But "the Lord is our Shepherd," and the green pastures, still waters, restorative care, and paths of righteousness spread out clear before his eye.

3. *We may not be lifted out of all sorrow, but we shall certainly be strengthened in it.* All who minister to men in their hours of direst need will readily testify that poverty and sickness and death are no respecters of persons, and that the worst evils of life occasionally visit the godliest homes. Christians are not always lifted out of sorrow, but are so adjusted to their surroundings that sorrow ceases to a good degree to be sorrow; God gives "songs in the night;" he cheers our lonely hours and gives us joy for grief and gladness for tears. Not even the shadow of death makes us shudder, for we know that where there is a shadow there must be a light to throw it, and the light on the other side of death shines direct from the throne of God.

4. *We are sure of final permanent peace and joy.* Temptation and trial, like the enemies who pursued the psalmist close to the gates of his Lord, but could not follow him inside, can never enter the Celestial City, and we shall be safe there from all foes. Every heavenly honor and courtesy will be bestowed upon us, and our associations with God and the godly shall continue after the days of our mortal life through all eternity. "The house of the Lord" shall be our home as long as night follows day on this side death, and for ever and ever in the heavens.

### Lesson Word-Pictures.

What an idyllic scene, a shepherd going into the fields, his trusting flock all about him, pressing close up to his sheltering side, or gradually straying off across the happy meadows, so very green, washed clean and bright by the copious rains of the spring! O how fresh and tender and emerald is this herbage of the stretching pasture-lands!

And the good shepherd, he knew of this particular field, and which way ran the path into it from the fold. He is a wise shepherd. He knew of the cool, green resting-places in which to lie down at noon, the shadow of some great rock in the hot noon-land. He knew, too, of the "still waters," sweet and refreshing, and long detaining the thirsty flock. Surely, none will want when they have the care of such a wise shepherd.

And so faithful, loving, and strong! We shall soon see proof of this.

Quickly, it is evening. The sun is looping up the folds of his draperied curtains in the west with bands of all conceivable colors, and, looking kindly once more upon the world, is soon gone. The flock is homeward hurrying, and I catch at last the sound of many feet scampering into the fold. The faithful shepherd stands at the door, and counts