

"CHRIST: OUR SHEPHERD AND BISHOP"**Introduction**

1. The theme of 1 Peter: suffering
2. Not any sort – for Christ
3. It takes various forms: v.19, 20

1. WHAT WE ARE BEFORE WE COME TO CHRIST

- 1) "Sheep going astray": **Illustration**: my experience of sheep.
- 2) In what ways "going astray"?
 - (i) our natural character described in Rom. 3:10-18;
 - (ii) Titus 3:3-5
 - (iii) our ignorance of the gospel: 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- 3) This is true, not of some, but of all till we return to the Shepherd.
- 4) This was the view which Christ himself had of us all while he saw us in our sins: "sheep without a shepherd". (Isa. 53:6)
APPLICATION: Is this clear to every one of us?

2. WHAT WE ARE AFTER WE COME TO CHRIST

- 1) "Now returned":
 - (i) Notice: "returned" – an important truth – Explain
 - (ii) Man was made for God – man bears God's "image"
- 2) Mankind's great problem is that it is fond of straying from God – loves to go astray - but there is no peace without Christ – he is "the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls".
- 3) Man's own abilities + powers only go so far:
 - (i) Health Service: for the body
 - (ii) Welfare State: for the poor + needy
 - (iii) But what for the soul?

- 4) Ah! but when we come back to Christ our soul too is at rest: "I will give you rest"

3. TO MAKE US NEW MEN CHRIST HAD TO SUFFER

- 1) A shepherd's work is a sacrificial one:
ILLUSTRATION: Jacob's words in Genesis 31:40
- 2) But no Shepherd cared more for his sheep than Christ – or traveled farther to recover them – or suffered more to get them.
- 3) "By whose stripes ye are healed":
 - (i) "stripes" – a ref. to lashes on a man
 - (ii) in this case – the "scourging"
 - (iii) – more still: the smiting of God:
"It pleased the Lord to bruise him".
Q. Can you explain these words: "pleased"?
APPLICATION: Listen: "I shall lay the pains of death on My Son to save My sheep" Ah!

4. IN SUFFERING CHRIST LEFT US AN EXAMPLE

- 1) v.21: Christ is our Shepherd + our Bishop, i.e. to conduct us through life – oversee our journey to heaven: "Thou wilt guide me...to glory".
- 2) The example – what is it?
 - (i) to suffer particularly in this life
 - (ii) leave it to God to vindicate you
So Christ did: "committed himself to God who judgeth righteously"
DOCTRINE: God will right all our wrong accusers + critics at last.

CONCLUSION**Illustration**: J. N. Darby and the little shepherd boy.**PSALM****80: 1 – 5****44: 9 – 14****73: 23 – 26**