

The Joy Of Being Christ's Sheep!
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In the Bible the central theme is the redemption of sinners by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross in their place, as their Substitute! Theologians would call it the substitutionary atonement. That is, Jesus Christ took the place of many on the cross as He carried their sins away so that they may receive eternal life, be forgiven of their sins, be reconciled to God, adopted as a child of God, become an heir of God and fellow heir of Jesus Christ, and so much more!

This is the gospel message, and it is the sweetest news to the true Christian, Jesus' sheep! While I want to consider the joy of being Christ's sheep, we aren't the focus! We are the benefactors of the glory and beauty and sacrifice and redemption found in Jesus Christ alone!

Keep in mind as we look at this section that everything that the sheep, the true Christian has, is because of Jesus Christ. He merited everything we have for us on the cross.

SHEEP HAVE JESUS AS THEIR DOOR TO SALVATION – 10:9,9

Matthew 1:21 – He saved us from our sins

Ephesians 2:8 – By grace we have been saved

I Timothy 1:15 – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

Titus 3:5 – He saved us... by His mercy

I Peter 4:18 – It is with difficulty that the righteous is saved

The door is not locked. But read into this the mercy and love and grace of God providing ONE WAY to salvation!

SHEEP HAVE ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST – John 10:10

We have a Father, and He is so good to us!

We have Jesus! A glorious Savior, Redeemer, Lover of our souls!
We have the Holy Spirit in us! He keeps us and bears fruit through us!
We have real fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Spirit.
We have love that knows no height, depth, length or breadth.
We have joy unspeakable and full of glory!
We have peace that passes understanding!
We have been brought out of darkness into His marvelous light.
We have a new divine nature - REGENERATION – raised up to new life.
We are seated with Jesus in the heavenly places!
We are adopted as children of God and can never lose that position.
We have a new family of saints, glorious ones in whom we delight.

SHEEP HAVE JESUS AS THEIR SHEPHERD – 10:11,14

Psalm 23 – He takes us to green pastures

He leads us to quiet waters

He restores our souls

He guides us in paths of righteousness

He is with us with His rod and staff so we fear no evil

He satisfies us even in the presence of great danger

He anoints us with His Spirit and causes our cup of salvation to overflow

His goodness and covenant love is with us all of our lives

He brings us to His house to dwell with Him forever

SHEEP HAVE A SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE IN JESUS CHRIST – 10:11,15,17,18

He Himself is the propitiation for our sins – I John 2:2

He died for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God – I Peter 3:18

He offered one sacrifice for sins for all time – Hebrews 10:12

He loved us and released us from our sins by His blood – Revelation 1:5

God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us –
Romans 5:8

SHEEP ARE INTIMATE WITH JESUS – John 10:14

Saints, are you enjoying the nearness of your God?

“How blessed is the man whom You choose and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your hours, Your holy temple”! Psalm 65:4

We may talk of walking closely with Jesus, being near to the Lord, fellowshiping with Him, etc.

And we find great joy in Jesus! In His presence is the fulness of joy, and in His right hand are pleasures forevermore!

SHEEP HEAR JESUS’ VOICE – 10:16, 27

Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest... - Matthew 11:28

If any man is thirsty let him come to Me and drink... - John 7:37

I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to Me will not hunger... John 6:35

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life...
John 5:24

Many prophets and kings wished... to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them -
Luke 10:24

Lord... you have the words of eternal life – John 6:68

SHEEP RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE FROM JESUS CHRIST – 10:28

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord
– Romans 6:23

... everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life – John 6:40

This is the promise which He Himself made to us, eternal life – I John 2:25
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life – I John 5:13

SHEEP ARE KEPT BY JESUS CHRIST AND WILL NEVER PERISH – 10:28,29

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. - Jude 1:24,25

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them - Hebrews 7:25

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord - Romans 8:35-39

SHEEP ENTER INTO ETERNAL JOY AT JESUS' COMMAND – Matthew 25:31-40,46

Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, '**Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God - Revelation 19:6-9

Dear saints, press on in Jesus. Look much to Him who has loved you with an everlasting love and has laid down His life to purchase your salvation. The trumpet will soon sound and all that is by faith will soon be realized in its fulness.

TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

[to the tune of: "Jesus what a friend for sinners"]

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.