

## **I LAY DOWN MY LIFE, THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT AGAIN**

**Easter Sunday  
March 27, 2016  
John 10:1-21**

**“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.”  
John 10:17**

No one can comprehend the love that God has for mankind. That love is evident in that God created man, and that He created him in His own image (Gen. 1:26). Thus, man is the only creature that can commune with God and return love to Him. God’s great love for mankind was conspicuous when He made His Son the sacrifice that saves from eternal torments of hell.

The curse of sin devastated God’s image in man, derailing the communion between God and man. Christ’s death is the God-designed deliverance from that curse. Jesus Christ received the full penalty for sin in His own body, thereby delivering sinners from hell’s torments. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Because Christ willingly submitted to this task, God loved Him and exhibited His love in His resurrection and exaltation (Phil. 2:9-11). Christ described His submissive role as the “good shepherd” who gives his life for the sheep. His Father loved Him, for thereby He saved the people whom God loved. When Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd,” He claimed the title (“I am”), the role (“shepherd”) and the character (“good”) of Jehovah. Religious men hated Him for this, but God the Father loved Him. Christ explained the cause of His Father’s love. Consider,

### **I. The Power of the Good Shepherd: power of an effectual sacrifice.**

- A. “I have the power to lay it down,” (18)
- B. “and I have the power to take it again” (18)
- C. Christ’s sacrifice is effectual: it accomplished its purpose. “. . . They **shall hear** my voice; and there **shall be** one fold, *and* one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me.” (16, 17a). On Christ’s effectual sacrifice, consider Isa. 53:5, 10-12.

### **II. The Purpose of the Good Shepherd: power exercised for “the sheep.”**

- A. “the good shepherd giveth his life **for the sheep**” (11)
- B. “**other sheep have I** which are not of this fold: **them** also I must bring” (16)

### **III. The People of the Good Shepherd: transformed by the power of His effectual sacrifice.**

- A. “the sheep follow him, for they know his voice” (4)
- B. “a stranger will they not follow . . . for they know not the voice of a stranger” (5)
- C. The good shepherd knows them, and they know Him (14).
- D. The Shepherd is compelled to bring them into His fold: “them also I must bring” (16).

E. "they shall hear my voice" (16)

F. "there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (16)