

Christian Apologetics (07)
[I Am The Good Shepherd]

The word apologetics is derived from the Greek word, apologia. Apologia refers to a speech made in defense or a verbal response.

“Christian apologetics is a field of Christian theology that presents a rational basis for the Christian faith and defends the faith against objections, and exposes the perceived flaws of other world views.” (Wikipedia)

All of the lessons in the series entitled, Christian apologetics, will be taken from the Gospel of John.

Today will study the seventh outrageous **I AM** claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

The Son of Man	The Door of Sheepfold
The Messiah	The Good Shepherd
The Bread of Life	
The Light	

Last Sunday we learned that John introduced a special figurative of speech technique called **paroimia** (Jn.10:6). It has a double Amen (Jn.10:1, 7) [verily, verily or truly, truly] in the parable. Normally a parable doesn't state the doctrinal truth unless it is a **paroimia**.

This Sunday we will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points of I Am the Good Shepherd (Jn.10:11, 14).

- Death of Shepherd (Jn.10:11, 15, 17, 18) Lays down life for the sheep.
- Danger to Sheep (Jn.10:12-13) Inside hireling and outside wolf
- Different Sheep (Jn.10:14-18) Sheep not of this fold becomes one flock
- Division from Sermon (Jn.10:19-21) Demonic and insane verses opened the eyes of the blind

**This lesson will study five aspects of the defense of the outrageous claim made by Jesus
“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.”**

1. When Jesus declared that He was the Good Shepherd, He was claiming that He was the messianic God Shepherd of Israel sent to become the Savior Shepherd of the World.

(Isa.40:11) “Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.” [**True Shepherd**] (Ezek.34:11-31)

(Jer.3:15) “Then I will give you shepherds after My heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.”

(Acts 20:28) “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His blood.”

2. Good Shepherd is 1 of 6 messianic shepherd titles given to Jesus Christ.

God shepherd of Israel	(Isa.40:11; Jer.3:15)	Chief Shepherd	(1 Pet.5:4)
Good Shepherd	(Jn.10:11-21)	Great Shepherd	(Heb.13:20-21)

3. The Good Shepherd lays down or gives (tithemi / p.a.ind) His life (ten psuche) for sheep as a commandment from God, His Father (Jn.10:11, 15, 17, 18).

Jesus voluntarily gave His life for the sheep based on **faith** in “This commandment (ten entole) (Jn.10:18b) I received from My Father”

The commandment given to Jesus involved divine authority or power (exousia) over His death and over His resurrection (1 Cor.15:1-4; Acts 2:31-32; Ps.16:10; Rom.8:11).

The Greek word for life is psuche. Psuche refers to soul life as opposed to body life (bios) or eternal life (zoe).

Jesus will give His spiritual soul life so that man born under the curse of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS)

(Rom.5:12-21) [Spiritually dead] can receive spiritual and eternal life for his soul by grace (Eph.2:8-9; 1 Jn.5:11-13).

When Jesus gave His soul for the sins of the world or died spiritually, He was alive (last three hours on cross) (Matt.27:45-46, 50; **John 19:30**; 1 Jn.3:16).

4. When John said that Jesus gave His life FOR the sheep, the Greek word and grammar was huper plus the ablative or “on behalf of” [as a substitute for].

This means He was a sacrificial substitute for the sheep (Jn.10:11, 15).

(Jn.1:29) “Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”(Isa.53:7).

(1 Pet.1:19) “But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. [No birth or growth defects]. **Jesus was both the Good Shepherd and the Perfect Lamb of God.**

(2 Cor.5:21) “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (1 Jn.3:5)

5. The prophecy given by Jesus is important to church age believers.

(Jn.10:16) “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold (Israel); I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

The whole world is invited into this prophecy (Jn.3:16).

(1 Jn.2:2) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

This prophecy includes Jewish sheep and Gentile sheep (different) as ONE FLOCK known as the church (Jn. 10:16; Gal.3:26-28; Col.3:11; Eph.4:4-6).

The ONE Door and the ONE Shepherd and the ONE flock of sheep make-up the message of the Sheep Gate Discourse.

(1 Jn.4:14)

“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.”