

Better To Know The Shepherd

The most popular or well-known Psalm is without a doubt Psalm 23: a wonderful message that a lot of people like to commit to memory. Let me say this first that I am not trying to run down memorization, but I do want to make a very important point. To commit passages of scripture to memory is good, and Psalm 23 is definitely one that people want to take to memory. But while many want to know the Psalm there is still one thing even more important: knowing the Shepherd. While many can quote Psalm 23 only a few of them truly have God as their Shepherd.

Jesus says in John 10:14, "*I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*" Jesus not only says that He is the good Shepherd, but He also says that He knows His sheep and the sheep know Him. This is true in a physical sense that sheep recognize the voice and the presence of their shepherd. But I think spiritually, knowing Jesus is a lot more than just knowing that He exists. In Matthew 7:23 Jesus tells His disciples what He will say to the wicked on the Day of Judgment, "*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" It isn't that Jesus doesn't know they exist, but they are not his children or sheep. They do not have a relationship with Him and that is why they will depart into eternal punishment, having never known Him or been known by Him.

It is good to know the Psalm but it is better to know the Shepherd and the only way that we can do this is by obeying the gospel. If we do not, we will never know Jesus as our Shepherd and will suffer the consequences in eternity (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

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