

you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed, Feed the flock of God which is among." Jesus gave this to Peter. Peter passes it along. "Feed the flock of God taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." Jesus is the chief Shepherd, and He wants us to be the under shepherds, and He wants us to feed the flock of God, even as He wanted Peter to do.

Now, there are three main aspects, I think, of feeding the flock of God. And if any one of these three main aspects is neglected, we are not truly feeding the flock of God.

The first one is to reach those who are intended for the flock, and bring them into the fold. You cannot truly serve Christ and have interest only in those who have already professed His name. If you are His representative, He wants you to be reaching out and ~~winning~~ bringing the message to as many as possible to bring them in, because you don't know who are the elect. You don't know who is saved. You do not know who He is going to save, and you do not know who may turn down the message a hundred times, and then on the hundred and first time accepts it and comes to the saviour, and is born again, through the Lord Jesus Christ. The true shepherd is interested in winning. Someone has said that when the church ceases to be evangelistic, it soon ceases to be evangelical. I don't know how soon, but eventually I believe it is bound to be. If we love Christ we love those people ~~who~~ in the Lord who are as sheep without a shepherd, and do not know that they need Him. Perhaps they revile Him directly.....14½..... But they need the message of salvation through Christ, and if we are....end of Record 3