

- I. When an evil _shepherd_ reigns, good sheep _die_
- Dan 2:31-45; 9:24-27;
Rev 4:1ff; 6:1-8;
II Thess 2:1-12;
Matt 24:4ff;
John 5:43; 10:10;
I Thess 4:13-18;
II Cor 15:51-52;
Prov 28:12; 29:2;
Ezek 34:1-3; Heb 16:13
- A. For the _bad_ shepherd, the _death_ of _good_ sheep is not incidental, it's his _agenda_
- Matt 24:9-10;
John 15:18-19; 16:1-4a;
Rev 11:19; 14:18; 16:7;
II Tim 3:12;
Ex 25:1-9, 40;
Heb 8:5; 9:11-12;
Lev 4:7-34
- B. To God, their _deaths_ are precious _sacrifices_
- Ps 116:15; Phil 2:17;
II Tim 4:6; Rom 12:1-2
- II. Physical _death_ is not "the _end_"
- A. When believers _die_, their _souls_ go _immediately_ to be with _Jesus_ in heaven
- Phil 1:23-24; II Cor 5:8;
Luke 23:39-43;
II Cor 12:1-4; Rev 2:7;
John 6:40;
Luke 16:19-25;
Rev 14:13;
I Thess 4:13-18;
II Cor 5:1-5; Rev 20:4-6
- B. When the _unrepentant_ (_unsaved_) die, their _souls_ are kept for _judgment_
- Luke 16:19-31;
II Pet 2:7-9;
Rev 6:16-17; Heb 9:27;
Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24;
Rev 3:7
- III. The _Master_ knows _best_
- A. He _waits_ so _more_ can be _saved_
- Rev 7:9-17;
Luke 21:16-19;
Rev 2:10b; II Pet 3:9
- B. Then, He will _judge_ and _avenge_
- John 10:27-30

Small Group Preparation

The Rest of the Souls | Revelation 6:9-11

Pastor Dave Bechtel

Relate

Share an illustration from your own experience of the principle: “When an evil shepherd is in charge, good sheep suffer.” (Shepherds include government authorities, military, family, employers, etc.)

Review

In Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 2:31-45), God gives him a prophetic look into the future of human governments. Review how the dream has been fulfilled. Where, according to the dream’s picture, are we in history now? What is the next event? (Hint: refer to the slides sent to small group leaders for the picture OR view it online: bethel-church.org/sermons.php)

According to Revelation 6:9-11, why is the Lord waiting to judge the earth and avenge the deaths of these martyrs? What does this say about God’s purposes and character?

Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

Small Group Preparation

The Rest of the Souls | Revelation 6:9-11

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Dig

Read John 6:40. What does it mean to “look on the Son...believe in Him...resulting in eternal life?” Now read John 6:35-58. What additional understanding about verse 40 do you gain in light of the rest of the passage?

Hint: Think about other Scripture passages that describe what it means to be saved.

Live

Having learned about the suffering that future believers are going to face (e.g., martyrdom) and God’s response to their plea, what implications does this have for you as you cry out to God in difficult situations?

What does the taking of communion mean? If you took it this last Sunday, what were YOU declaring? In the future, are there other things you need to consider when you take it?

Small Group Preparation

Serve

NOW Celebration Worship Service, March 1, 10am at the TRAC in Pasco

We still need small groups to host tailgates! Please consider as a small group hosting a tailgate. If you host, you will need to:

1. Have a pickup with a tailgate
2. Have a grill/camp stove
3. Provide hot food (e.g., hotdogs, hamburgers, chili, soup) and associated condiments/buns for 50 people. The church will provide drinks, plates, napkins and utensils.

Please contact Jan Sederburg (jan.sederburg@bethel-church.org / 628-0150) if your group is willing to host.