



Knowing Christ

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

The Glory of Jesus

- NIV **John 9:38** Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.
- lit **Philippians 2:11** ... every tongue should confess that the Lord is Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father.
- KJV **Psalms 96:9** O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

The Gentleness of Jesus

- ^{NAS} **John 10:1** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ² "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. ³ "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. ⁴ "When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ "And a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus, Answer to Moses' Prayer

- NAS **John 10:3** "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. ⁴ "When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- NAS **Numbers 27:15** Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying, ¹⁶ "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

Shepherding Western Style



Shepherding Eastern Style



He Leads Us

- **NAS John 10:3** "... the sheep hear his voice, and he ... leads them out.
- **NAS Psalm 23:2** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- **NIV Isaiah 40:11** He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.
- **ESV Revelation 7:17** For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

He Calls Us by Name

- ^{NAS} **John 10:3** "... the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name ...
- ^{NAS} **Exodus 33:17** And the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I have known you by name."
- ^{NIV} **Philippians 4:3** Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- ^{NIV} **2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his,"

We Hear and Follow

- ^{NIV} **John 10:4** When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- ^{NAS} **John 3:29** "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full.
- ^{NAS} **Song 8:13** "O you who sit in the gardens, My companions are listening for your voice-- Let me hear it!"
- ^{NIV} **1 Peter 2:21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.



Applications

Unconditional Love

- **NIV Song 2:1** *Bride*: I am a rose [crocus] of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.
- **NIV Song 2:2** *Bridegroom*: Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.
- **NIV Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
- **NAS Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Desire for Christ

- NIV **Song 2:3** *Bride*: Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste...⁶ His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.
- NIV **Philippians 3:8** What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
- NAS **Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Satisfaction in Christ

- **NIV Song 2:4** *Bride*: He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. ⁵ Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.
- **NIV Isaiah 11:10** In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.
- **NAS Revelation 3:20** 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.
- **NAS John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.
- **NAS Revelation 19:9** And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'
...

Listening for *and* to Christ

- ^{NIV} **Song 2:8** *Bride*: Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. ⁹ ... Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. ¹⁰ My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me... ¹³ ... Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."
- ^{NAS} **John 10:3** "... the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. ⁴ "When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Secure in Christ

- ^{NAS} **Song 2:16** *Bride*: "My beloved is mine, and I am his; He pastures his flock among the lilies.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword...³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Conclusions

Christ, Our Loving Shepherd

- ^{NAS} **John 10:3** "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. ⁴ "When he puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 4:19** We love, because He first loved us.

Controlled by Love

- **NAS 2 Corinthians 5:14** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

- Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Oh, receive my soul at last.
- Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
Source of all true righteousness;
Thou art evermore the same,
Thou art full of truth and grace.