

# Becoming a *Shepherd* ...the Audiobook

*Lessons from the flock ...*

## *Ponderings & Reflections*

### Chapter Three, Protecting the Sheep ...

- What new things did you learn in this Reflection about shepherding? What new appreciations do you have for our Good/Chief/Great Shepherd as well as the various oversight shepherds in your fellowship?
- On your spiritual journey, who/what would you describe as your spiritual enemies? In your view of yourself, where are you most vulnerable – what do you need to be protected from most? Do you concur with Luther's view that the three enemies of the Christian are the world, the flesh and the devil?
- Have you ever thought about praising God for the many times He has protected you unawares?
- People, like sheep, can easily get stuck in life's depressions, becoming cast down souls. Looking through the rearview mirror of your life, can you see where our Father has (repeatedly) lifted you up, restored you, and put you back on your feet so you can resume the spiritual journey?
- When you had to walk through your versions of the valley of shadow of death, did you sense the Good Shepherd with you? What have you learned from those experiences?
- Jesus warned about false teachers who will come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves (Matt. 7:15 ESV). Have you had that experience? How best can we discern the wolf's presence?
- It's not the rod, nor the staff, nor the sling per se that provides comfort to the sheep. Their comfort comes from realizing it's the Shepherd's presence together with the rod, the sling and the staff that provides the sheep with a sense of security. How have you been practicing His Presence these days?