

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

“I am a Christian solely and entirely because of the grace of God and not because of anything that I have thought or said or done. He brought me to know that I was dead, ‘dead in trespasses and sins’, a slave to the world, and the flesh, and the devil, that in me ‘dwelleth no good thing’, and that I was under the wrath of God and heading for eternal punishment.

He brought me to see that the real cause of all my troubles and ills, and that of all men, was an evil and fallen nature which hated God and loved sin. My trouble was not only that I did things that were wrong, but that I myself was wrong at the very center of my being.”

[Martyn Lloyd-Jones testimony to Iain Murray, p. 64, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The First Forty Years, 1899-1939, Banner of Truth*]

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

I Am the Good Shepherd

April 27th, 2025

Sermon Text: John 10:1-5

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way,

that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him,

for they do not know the voice of strangers.” (John 10:1-5)

This is a vitally important passage of God’s Word for us in this present day when we are surrounded by various voices who claim to be the Shepherd of the sheep. The Lord Jesus Christ warned us of this as we just read:

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. (Matthew 24:3-5)

The deceiver is alive and well and MANY are being led astray – particularly many who profess to be Christians. Rome has led hundreds of millions if not billions of souls to hell. Their Pope claims to be Christ – softening the claim with “Vicar” but in reality that

false church puts its Pope forward as Christ.

But Protestants have their many deceivers as well. Not just Rome and not just the cults. False teachers are myriads in even the evangelical church today, claiming to speak for Christ. To name one such example who along with his father is deceiving many today is Franklin Graham. People are aghast that I should say such a thing, but surely his true colors were shown recently when he posted a picture of himself shaking hands with the recently deceased Pope, along with the instruction to his readers that we should be praying for the Roman Catholic church as she selects a new Pope.

Now, let that sink in. A false church teaching a false way of salvation, with its own false priesthood and false sacraments along with countless other false doctrines which are quite opposed to Scripture, led by a man whom the Reformers rightly said was antichrist, is sought out for an audience by this leading

supposedly evangelical leader here in America.

Apply some logic here. When Franklin Graham, like his father a leading “Christian” advisor to our President, a man whose word and teachings are accepted by millions without question, posts photos of himself shaking hands with the Pope of Rome AND who encourages all of us to pray for the Roman church, when he does this – *who can deny that Franklin Graham is endorsing the antichrist church as being of Christ?* And does that not make Franklin Graham a false teacher himself who, as Christ warned, is leading many astray. Here are Franklin’s exact words:

Pope Francis passed away this morning after battling health issues. He was able to have meetings and appear at some of the Vatican’s Holy Week observances in just the last couple of days. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with him last year when I went to Naples to preach. Pray for the

Catholic Church as they begin the process of selecting another pope.

And I will go further – the text here which we are about to look at, hearing Christ’s own words, surely indicate that no genuine Christian will listen to a stranger (a deceiver claiming to be Christ).

Franklin journeying to Italy and not only met with the Pope, he is proud of the picture where he is shaking hands with the Pope, smiling joyfully. (you can find the picture online)

Now, lest anyone accuse me of being too critical, I want to ask you to THINK: *Can you imagine the Lord Jesus Christ in this picture? Smiling. Shaking hands with antichrist whose “church” has slaughtered millions of Christians?* Would the Apostle Paul do this? What about the Old Testament Prophets? Or John the Baptist –

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you

to flee from the wrath to come?
(Matthew 3:7)

Jesus said MANY will come and MANY will be deceived. The way is narrow and few are they who find it. Lest anyone listening is inclined to make excuses for Franklin Graham, I challenge them to pick up their Bible and show us that Christ Himself and His prophets and apostles would do what Graham is doing here.

The gospel is only fully proclaimed when the preacher not only announces what the good news IS, but also exposes what it is NOT.

In other words, where do we see people like Graham proclaiming that the way of salvation according to Rome *is a false gospel?* You don't. Consider Paul –

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and

separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?” (Galatians 2:11-14)

But what are we seeing now? It is as if the whole world has gone mad, chasing after this antichrist of Rome. Where are the voices to speak out against these deceivers? Don't make excuses for Franklin Graham, as if “well, he is just trying to save the Pope and Roman Catholics.” He is not.

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you

have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:1-2)

This is God's Word to Rome and to all who shake hands with her instead of confronting her:

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'" For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter

days you will understand it clearly. "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. (Jeremiah 23:16-22)

The Old Testament Background

"I am the good shepherd." Like so many of Jesus' teachings and parables, this has a very strong Old Testament background. This tells us that Jesus, when He made this claim, was telling the Jews "I am the Shepherd the Scriptures speak of. I am that Shepherd whom My Father promised to send. *In other words, when Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd, He is identifying Himself as Yahweh!* Here are some examples:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalms 23:1)

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:10-11)

Ezekiel 34:11-12 “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. (12) As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Do you see it here in John 10 as well? What was the Lord Jesus doing when he said this:

John 10:8-10 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. (9) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (10) The

thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

He is exposing all the prior false prophets AND the scribes and Pharisees in His own day. The Popes of Rome – study the history of the Roman Catholic Church – and their false priests are *thieves and robbers who only come to serve themselves, to steal and kill and destroy.*

“The enemies of the sheep do not own the sheep; they do not know the sheep; they are hirelings who do not love the sheep. They are the exact opposite of the Good Shepherd. By means of intimidation they try to acquire possession of the sheep. They climb over the wall to get into the fold. By means of false philosophy, false religion, false ethics, they try to entice the sheep. They are entirely self-serving, a fit symbol of the Pharisees of Jesus’ day and of many false teachers in every age of history.” [Hendriksen, Gospel of John]

Listen to Ezekiel 34 further:

Ezekiel 34:1-10 The word of the LORD came to me: (2) “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? (3) You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. (4) The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. (5) So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; (6) they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. (7) “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the

LORD: (8) As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, (9) therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: (10) Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

Christ's Sheep Know His Voice

Now, let's very carefully hear what the Lord Jesus says about His true sheep:

John 10:3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10:8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

John 10:16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The Lord said it over and over so that we might not miss it.

Christ's true sheep, those whom He calls to salvation, recognize His Word and they are able to identify and reject a false shepherd. They run away from the

false shepherd. They enter through the door of the sheepfold, which is Christ.

Listen carefully now. YOU cannot and must not be careless and lazy. *These are dangerous, perilous times in which we live and the danger and deception is increasing. MOST people who claim to be Christians are going to be carried away by the spirit of antichrist – Rome being a chief example.* If you doubt that, you are in trouble. You cannot naively listen to popular preachers and accept what they are teaching without question.

Luke 18:7-8 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? (8) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Matthew 24:23-24 Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. (24) For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders,

so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Listen to this news report from former Republican Senator Rick Santorum who attended the Pope's funeral:

In the backdrop of Pope Francis' funeral Saturday, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President Donald Trump engaged in iconic peace talks at the Vatican, former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., marveled on [Newsmax](#).

"I think it speaks well to both of them," Santorum told special coverage co-hosts Bianca de la Garza and Ed Henry on Saturday. "I know they don't have the best relationship, but it speaks well to both of them that they would take the time, I think obviously moved by this moment, even though neither of them are Catholic."

The death of the Pope and the war deaths in Ukraine, which Trump has repeatedly hoped to end, have the world leaders realizing current

struggles are just a "blip" on the timeline of humanity.

The trappings of Rome and the beauty and the overwhelming sense of the history of Christ's presence and all of the ... you think about the importance of the time, and then you go into a place that's been there for over a thousand years and recognize that you're just a little blip in this long line, and that there have been conflicts before," Santorum said.

"These types of big things now in the course of time are not that big, and you have an obligation to sort of keep the timeline going, if you will."

The pictures of Trump and Zelenskyy talking at the Vatican moved Santorum, too.

"The idea of sitting there on holy ground during a very sacred time can't help but influence you and drive you to find a path," he said. "And I think maybe that's what we saw here today. And it's a beautiful thing to see."

Santorum noted he attended the "funeral of John Paul II some 20 years ago," but he said Saturday's Pope Francis ceremony shows the power of faith endures the tests of time and change.

"I know that the amazing feeling that's there," Santorum said, "just get the enormity of the church, the Catholic church, the universal church — and as much as people talk about the decline of the church and the lack of faith in so many younger people — you see younger people, you see that the church is very much alive and that the passion is still there, and it gives you hope."

It appears to me that the world is increasing being deceived by Rome. If you really know Christ, you will flee from this false church. AND you will find yourself in a small remnant- the real church.

They Shall All Know Me

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

The only reason anyone is saved *is because the Lord gives them eyes to see and ears to hear His Word. When we are born again, when the Spirit of God regenerates our hearts and joins us in union with Christ, we KNOW Him.* We recognize the Good Shepherd and a stranger we will NOT follow.

And don't miss this:

John 10:16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, **and they will listen to my voice.** So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

He is referring of course to the Gentiles and they, though scattered all over the earth, *will hear and listen to His voice calling them.* This is ALWAYS the case when the gospel is preached, when God's Word is truthfully proclaimed. Those He is calling WILL hear and come to Him. He gifts them with faith and obedience, with a personal knowledge of Him.

Let's go back to Rome as an example. What is the Roman Catholic Church? What is the Pope. All of it is antichrist's spirit. It preaches and announces a false gospel, a false way of salvation that leads to hell. Millions and millions flock after this wolf in wool. Except, for Christ's remnant, His true sheep. What do they do? They FLEE from the beast. The Pope is a stranger. They sense danger, and they will not follow him. This is why Martin Luther came out from Rome. He recognized that this is God's Word:

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

The Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for His sheep. He knew and He knows each one by name and he laid down His life for their salvation. He

effects a union with His people so that we are in Him and know Him. His law is written upon our hearts, by this and by His Spirit in us, we know and recognize the Bible as His Word.

Let me end with this observation for your consideration. When the Lord Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus, knocked him to the ground and called him as His apostle, what did this Pharisee do? Jesus revealed Himself and Saul recognized His voice as the Lord.

What then did Paul do in regard to his old "church"? Pharisaism and all its teachings and trappings? He left it all, counting it as dung. And he was ostracized and hated and persecuted for it.

Where then, to end where we began, are we to think of people like Franklin Graham who shake hands with the Pope, or about his father, Billy Graham? Listen to this blog from the Billy Graham Library, 2021 -

“Billy Graham first met Pope John Paul II 40 years ago while he was traveling through Europe. In 1981, Rev. Graham was leaving Hungary where he was presented with an honorary doctorate degree by the oldest Protestant seminary in the world. Leaving Hungary, Billy Graham set on to the Vatican for a brief trip to meet with the pope. He recalls the visit in his autobiography *Just As I Am*:

Years before, I had visited the city-state as a tourist, but on this trip I was to be received by Pope John Paul II, my first visit with a pope. We were met by a contingent of Swiss Guards, in their colorful medieval uniforms, and escorted into a private elevator leading to the papal apartments. Our first reaction was that the magnificence of the public areas of the Vatican was surpassed, if anything, by that of the private areas.

As I was ushered into his quarters, Pope John Paul II greeted me, and we shook hands warmly. I found him extremely cordial and very interested in our ministry,

especially in his homeland. After only a few minutes, I felt as if we had known each other for many years. He was very interested in an album of pictures taken during our Japan Crusade a few months before; he was scheduled to make his first trip there shortly.

He also expressed great delight at the small gift I had brought him, a woodcarving of a shepherd with his sheep, done by a North Carolina craftsman. We recalled together Jesus’ words in John 10:14, 16. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. . . . I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.” In turn the pope gave me a medallion commemorating his papacy and several magnificently bound volumes.

Billy Graham and Pope John Paul II continued their friendship after meeting in 1981. A few years later, Rev. Graham was asked by the pope to preach on the subject of family at a Scripture and prayer service in South Carolina. While Rev. Graham regrettably could not attend, he was honored to have received the invitation.

These two internationally known men worked together to share Scripture and to pray for a hurting world. In their efforts of sharing scripture with a hurting world, they were representatives of Christ to world leaders including President Kim in North Korea. Billy Graham's message remained consistent, "The message will *not* change, for it is timeless, meant for every generation... More than anything else, I yearn for people to understand the message of Christ and accept it as their own."

"A stranger they will never follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."