



“... I will give you shepherds according to Mine own heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” Jeremiah 3:15

One practical application of God’s mercy and forgiveness is His gift to His people of shepherds – shepherds after His own heart. Whether it is in a family, a church, a business or in government; shepherds have been placed in our lives by God to oversee and care for us on some level.

In church life specifically, one of the first indicators a person’s heart is growing hard is a certain dissatisfaction with their pastor – who, by the way, is Christ’s personal representative, called and chosen to the task of overseeing the flock of God!<sup>1</sup> Teachable, thankful and tenderhearted people are easily shepherded; even when the pastor himself may not be the best educated or may not hold the kindest manner, sweetest personality or most eloquent of speech. It is a spiritual dynamic at work – guard your heart from the hardness of judgment and a critical spirit – especially against your leaders. Like it or not, to resist God given authority is to resist God Himself.

You see, repentance changes your attitude! A heart and mind that walks with the Lord moment by moment will see the good in others; it will rejoice in life and is thankful in the midst of daily circumstances. The knowing that the Lord is the Source of all our blessings and that He is working out a plan and calling us to be a part of that plan gives us great courage and joy in facing each new day. (Romans 8:28)

“Thank You Lord God for my parents, my pastor, my employer, my civic leaders and my teachers. Help me to be easily shepherded. May I not be a grief to any of those that You have sent to watch over my life! In Jesus’ name, Amen!” “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.” (Hebrews 13:17 – 18).

<sup>1</sup> Unable to strike out personally at God, some people will then direct their anger and frustration with God at their spiritual leaders – those who they emotionally see as representing to them God Himself. All such attitudes only dig them more deeply into the quicksand of resentment and hatred. Humble confession and repentance are the desperately needed healing balm. Every believer must know his place of right standing before the Saviour and take personal responsibility for their own spiritual growth and maturity.