

# PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

## WEEK SEVEN

### I. Why there has to be a plan/path

#### A. Sheep are creatures of habit (not good habits)

1. eat until they destroy the root
2. walk until rut and erode
3. linger until they get parasites

#### B. The Shepherd knows the secret lies in moving

1. fresh, healthy forage
2. safe terrain
3. freedom from parasites
4. a plan for movement is key to success
  - a. know the fields – Heb 2:17,4:15,5:8
  - b. know the sheep– Is 40:11, I Pe 3:12  
Ps 68:19  
Matt 11:28  
Matt 5:6

## II. So what does this have to do with ME ?

A. We are “stiff-necked” creatures (Is 53:6)

1. pride – Prov 14:12, 16:25

2. faith – (40 years in the Wilderness?)

Heb 3:7-11

B. Called to follow – John 14:6, John 10:10, Mark 8:34

## III. Seven keys to “moving on”

1. Godly priorities – I John 3:16, Phil 2:3

\* will vs whim

\* sacrifice vs selfishness

\* motive matters– Col 3:23

2. Willing to be “set apart” – Lev 20:23–26, Ps 4:3

- \* rejected – Matt 10:22
- \* ridiculed – Noah?
- \* humble service – John 13:1–14

3. Forfeit personal “rights” – Matt 20:28

- \* shrine of self-importance
- \* emancipation from “personal pride”
- \* zero tolerance policy – Prov 16:18

4. Tail-ender not Top Ram (Matt 10:39)

- \* Absence of the drive for self-determination  
“to live is Christ, to die is gain”
- \* II Co 12:9–10
- \* Rom 14:7–9

5. Attitude of Gratitude – Lam 3:22–24

- \* “Why?...Why?...Why?”... – Heb 11:6
- \* Destructiveness of Doubt – Jas 1., II Co 5:7
- \* Rom 8:28

6. Crucify your will – Gal 6:14

- \* “Not my will but thine...” – Mark 14:35–36  
Matt 6:10
- \* deliberate decision made in advance
- \* crucifying the will – Phil 2:13

7. Only option...obedience – Phil 2:13, II John 1:6

- \* go –
- \* say –
- \* stay–
- \* react–
- \* suffer –