

## **The Abundant Life**

John 10:7-18: So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

I was helping Phillip on Thursday night get his lesson ready to give for tonight's youth service. One of the verses that he utilized came from the passage above about the good shepherd. He used John 10:10 that the good shepherd came so that we might have an abundant life. Phillip's lesson made me really think on how much God really loves us. He doesn't just want us to have a so-so life. He doesn't just want us to have a mediocre existence. He desires that we have an abundant life. However He wants us to realize that the only truly abundant life is in Christ. All of the other promises of a great life are lies and sold by thieves and robbers. Often the things we seek and search for in life, like wealth and status, not only do nothing to give us a truly abundant life but really rob us of true happiness and joy that can only come from serving and depending on the Lord. There is no employer, family member, or friend who loves you like the Good Shepherd loves you. Sooner or later the wolf is going to knock on your door and when he does, who do you want standing by your side? Do you want your boss, your buddy, or Jesus the Christ who laid down His life for you and had the ability to pick it up again? Let us live as the sheepfold of God realizing that as his children we are living the abundant life when we are focusing on the Good Shepherd.