

**22 April 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday.**

**Readings:** Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18.

**INTRO: Whitney Houston,** “There's a boy I know, he's the one I dream of  
Looks into my eyes, takes me to the clouds above, mmm-hmm Oh, I lose  
control, can't seem to get enough, uh-huh When I wake from dreaming, tell me  
is it really love. *Ooh, how will I know (don't trust your feelings) How will I  
know How will I know (love can be deceiving) How will I know* How will I  
know if he really loves me? I say a prayer with every heartbeat I fall in love  
whenever we meet I'm asking you what you know about these things How will I  
know if he's thinking of me I try to phone but I'm too shy (can't speak) Falling  
in love is so bittersweet This love is strong, why do I feel weak?” **Answer:**  
**John 10:14-15,** “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.”



## I. THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

**John 3:16,** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**Cf. THE GOSPEL TELLS ME SO.**

**John 10:11,** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.”

**1 John 3:16,** “By this we know love... he laid down his life for us.”

**Cf. JESUS TELLS ME SO.**

**John 14:7,** “If you had known me, you would have known my Father  
also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

**John 17:3,** “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true  
God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”



## II. THE CHURCH TELLS ME SO.

**John 20:21-23,** “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the  
Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said  
this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold  
forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” **Romans 10:14,** “How then will  
they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they  
to believe in him of whom they have never heard?”

**John 13:35**, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” **1 John 3:16**, “And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

**Song**: “They will know we are Christians by our love...”



### III. THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ME SO.

**John 14:16-17**, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be **in** you.”

**1 John 3:24**, “And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”

**Luther**, *Third Article*, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead **the Holy Spirit** has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith.”



**CONCLUSION: Born again. Martin Luther**, “I meditated night and day on those words until at last, by the mercy of God, I paid attention to their context: "The justice of God is revealed in it, as it is written: 'The just person lives by faith.'" I began to understand that in this verse the justice of God is that by which the just person lives by a gift of God, that is by faith. I began to understand that this verse means that the justice of God is revealed through the Gospel, but it is a passive justice, i.e. that by which the merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written: "The just person lives by faith." All at once I felt that I had been **born again** and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. I ran through the Scriptures from memory and found that other terms had analogous meanings, e.g., the work of God, that is, what God works in us; the power of God, by which he makes us powerful; the wisdom of God, by which he makes us wise; the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.”

**Whitney Houston**: “Oh, wake me, I'm shaking, wish I had you near me now, uh-huh Said there's no mistaking, what I feel is really love.”

God help us so to know how really loved we are, in Jesus' name 😊