

Ezekiel 34:17-31—God The Faithful Shepherd Feeds His Flock—

Part 2

Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Introduction

In Ezekiel 34:1-16 God rebuked the foolish shepherds, who represented both the spiritual and civil leaders. We saw the differences between the foolish shepherds and God the Good Shepherd, and also the devastating effects poor and selfish leadership has on the people under them. God promises to deal with ungodly leaders who scatter the flock for their own gain, while He Himself will gather the flock.

Now, in this second half of the chapter we see God speaking to His flock, which represents the rest of the people. We will see that the sheep themselves have responsibility as to how they treat each other. God says that He will judge those proud, fat, and strong sheep that bully and harass the weaker sheep, and cause them to wander off. We are all our brother's keeper (see Genesis 4:9).

As usual, while Israel was the least deserving, God graciously gives them more promises, some of which have already started to be fulfilled in our lifetimes. However, their complete fulfillment will be in the Millennial Reign when David rules as their prince or leader, and Jesus will be their God and King and will rule over the whole earth.

Outline of Ezekiel 34

1. God speaks to and warns the foolish shepherds (the leaders)—Part 1 (vs 1-16)
2. God speaks to and warns the sheep of the flock (the people)—Part 2 (vs 17-31)

2. God speaks to and warns the sheep of the flock (vs 17-31)

Ezekiel 34:17-31 NKJV

¹⁷ ‘And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats. ¹⁸ Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture—and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? ¹⁹ And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet.”

²⁰ ‘Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: “Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, ²² therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

²⁵ “I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. ²⁶ I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. ²⁷ Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. ²⁸ And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid. ²⁹ I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. ³⁰ Thus they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people,” says the Lord God.’ ”

³¹ “You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God,” says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 34:17-19 NKJV—Trampling the pasture and muddying the water

‘And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats. ¹⁸ Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture—and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? ¹⁹ And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet.”

v 17 **As for you, O My flock:** God has finished addressing the shepherds or leaders (vs 1-16), and now addresses the people, described here His own sheep or flock (vs 17-31).

Application—We are sheep: Why do you think the Bible describes believers as sheep?

- Because sheep are really quite senseless animals who don’t tend to appreciate the loving concern of their shepherd.
- They are prone to wander off and need someone to seek after them and bring them back into the fold (see Matthew 18:12-14).
- They need help to find good food and water.
- They can’t defend themselves.
- They like to be around other believers, for good or for worse.

Isaiah 53:6 NKJV

All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

v 17 **As for you:** God has just finished rebuking the foolish shepherds in no uncertain terms, but now God rebukes some of the flock who are also in rebellion against Him, and who are also hurting the other sheep. This shows that the bad teaching and bad example of the foolish shepherds does not excuse the sins of the flock. Each sheep must decide who they will listen to, who they will follow, and are responsible for their own choices.

“The flock will in fact be purified, not only of its bad leadership but also of its bad members.” (Taylor)

Application: Am I an oppressor, victim, or both?

“Modern western culture often divides the world into two categories: *oppressors* and *victims*. Great attention is given to the sins and crimes of the oppressors, and often rightly so. Yet we err when we think there are never circumstances when one thought to be a victim can also have responsibility for their own sins and failings before God.” (David Guzik)

Many people say, “I can’t help the way I am because of what someone did to me previously.” This is a dangerous lie. Actually, my choices are really the only things I can call my own. One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is free choice, the ability to think independently of others and make up our own minds. Why is this freedom of choice so precious? Because without it, there would be no love; we would only be robots. So while free choice is scary because we can make the wrong choices and hurt ourselves and others, it’s ultimately a blessing because it gives us the opportunity to choose to show genuine love to God and to others.

An example of the victim/oppressor could be someone who was bullied, hurt, or abused by someone, but chooses not to forgive that person. They therefore remain angry and become a bully, hurtful, or abusive themselves. Their choice to not forgive and move on is their own; they alone are responsible for that choice and the consequences that follow.

v 17 **...between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats:** Back in Bible times, it was customary for shepherds to have both sheep and goats in their flocks. Thus, this is not a reference to the sheep and goat judgement in Matthew 25:31-46 where the sheep represent believers and the goats unbelievers—here God will judge between sheep and sheep—it’s just a way of referring to all of the people.

v 18 **Is it too little for you to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture:** The picture here is that the bigger, fatter, and stronger sheep ate their own share of the pasture, but then proceeded to trample down the remainder of the grass to make it unfit for consumption; thus the other sheep go hungry or are forced to eat grass that has been trampled down. It’s a picture of unnecessary suffering and neglect caused by the stronger sheep who were basically bullying the weaker sheep and not allowing them to enjoy the blessings given by God to all of the sheep.

“In acting as if the pasture belonged to *them*, these renegade sheep spoiled it for others. This shows that damage can be done to the flock not only by the shepherd, but also by sheep who are not considerate of other sheep, and who treat the pasture as if it were theirs to do with as they pleased.” (David Guzik)

v 18 **To have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet:** This is another illustration with the same meaning as the pasture illustration above. The bullies didn’t just enjoy what was theirs, but also made life miserable for those around them. In this case, they drunk from the waters when they were clear, but when they were finished drinking themselves, they deliberately walked in the water source and stirred up the mud (**foul the residue**) so there was no longer any clean water for the other sheep to drink.

v 19 **They eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet:** This describes the misery of God's flock. God had blessed them, but they were not able to enjoy those blessings because other sheep had abused or ruined them. These fatter sheep represent those people with greater influence, wealth, physical strength, knowledge, or position (see verses 20-23) who were inconsiderate and selfish towards others. God is speaking to the nation of Israel, but the same principles can be easily applied to both the local church and any family unit. If my attitude is that this family unit (dad, mum, and the children), or this church, exists only for my benefit, then I will take from it what I want and then make life hard for everyone else; I will not allow the rest of the family to enjoy or benefit from those blessings and relationships. It only takes one inconsiderate or selfish person to make life difficult for the rest in any family or local church. The truth is that we all have been, and all can be, at one time or another, that selfish person that makes life difficult for others. We are all susceptible to pride and selfish ambition; it's just how our sinful nature is. Repentance, humility, and submission to each other is the solution.

1 Peter 5:5 NKJV

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*"

v 19 **They eat what you have trampled:** "The poor, misled, and muzzled people are glad to eat such as they can catch. They are fed with traditions, legendary fables, indulgences, vowed pilgrimages, penances." (Trapp) Applying this spiritually to the church, the trampled pasture could represent the false and/or watered down teaching that many get in the church today. The poor spiritual diet will lead to stunted spiritual growth.

Ezekiel 34:20-24 NKJV—God will protect the sheep from rebellious sheep

'Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: "Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, ²² therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

v 20 **I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep:** God promised to judge or bring justice to those inconsiderate and selfish sheep.

v 21 **Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad:** This is what happens when the selfish and inconsiderate sheep are allowed to continue in their sinful and selfish ways—people leave the church and families break up; the weaker sheep are made to leave the pasture altogether (**scattered them abroad**).

"It is not only the leaders who are at fault, but within the flock there are those who are concerned only with their own interests, and not content with this, are deliberately spoiling life for others." (Wright)

"It is a story told in many churches. Those who consider themselves to be mature, knowledgeable believers cause great trouble. In Ezekiel's picture they are the fat sheep that spoil the pasture and the waters for the other sheep. Their disruptions to the peace

of God's flock spoil the food for other sheep and even make them scatter." (David Guzik)

This is the danger of spiritual pride, which can easily result when people have knowledge but not love. Again, we all need to watch that we don't fall into this satanic, prideful trap. Consider the warning Paul gave to the Corinthian church. The issue at the time was food offered to idols, but the principle of knowledge puffing up and love building up is universal, applicable to any issue that we face today.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 AMP—**Knowledge puffs up but love edifies**

Now about food offered to idols: of course we know that all of us possess knowledge [concerning these matters. Yet mere] knowledge causes people to be puffed up (to bear themselves loftily and be proud), but love (affection and goodwill and benevolence) edifies and builds up and encourages one to grow [to his full stature].

2 If anyone imagines that he has come to know and understand much [of divine things, without love], he does not yet perceive and recognise and understand as strongly and clearly, nor has he become as intimately acquainted with anything as he ought or as is necessary.

3 But if one loves God truly [with affectionate reverence, prompt obedience, and grateful recognition of His blessing], he is known by God [recognised as worthy of His intimacy and love, and he is owned by Him].

v 21 **Pushed ... butted:** In Jeremiah 34:8-11, we have a practical example of what this looked like in Ezekiel's time. The law says that a Hebrew could only be a slave to another Hebrew family for a maximum of 6 years. In the seventh year they must go free. Most of the time they were slaves because of poverty, and becoming a slave was a matter of survival—they received food, board, and clothing from the family they worked for. There were no or very few homeless people in that culture. However, the rich oppressed the poor by not giving them their freedom; they forced their Hebrew slaves to continue working for them beyond the six years of service required of them. This is clearly an abuse of power that would have left the Hebrew slaves feeling disenchanting and disillusioned with their life as one of God's chosen people.

As believers, we must be so careful that we don't coerce or manipulate people to do things that they don't want to do. This can be done by guilt trips (if you love God, or, if you are a good Christian, then you should...), flattery (insincere praise), the promise of promotion or prominence as a reward for service, and also by sheer force of will, expecting or demanding that people do certain jobs in the church or give a certain amount of money. In effect, believers can treat other believers as slaves.

v 22 **Therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep:** God had previously promised to rescue His flock from the unfaithful shepherds. Now God also promises to rescue the persecuted sheep from their fellow but controlling, dominating, and abusive sheep. The effect in both situations is the same, the flock was scattered, and they became a prey to wild animals. Of course this is an illustration of believers becoming isolated and becoming wolf or lion food—satan will eat them up.

Ezekiel 34:23-24 NKJV—David will be a prince among the Israelites

I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

v 23 **I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David:** We come back to the promises that God gives Israel concerning the New Covenant. We are familiar with the giving of the Holy Spirit to believers to empower them to live a life that pleases God, however, another very important New Covenant promise is the regathering of the people of Israel to the land of Israel. Here God promises Israel a good shepherd, king David, someone who would truly care for their well-being and give them the spiritual nourishment they need.

“What started out as an oracle of judgment ends as an oracle of salvation that speaks directly about Judah’s future.” (Vawter and Hoppe)

“The full realisation of the prediction of verse 22 must be in the future in Messiah’s reign. How much is to be accomplished in Messiah’s kingdom [on earth]! Is it any wonder that the godly in Israel have always looked with longing and faith to that hour of blessed consummation [the Second Coming of Christ]?” (Feinberg)

v 24 **I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them:** You may be wondering how David will be a prince among his people, after all, he died about three thousand years ago. Remember that all the Old Testament believers will resurrect after Jesus comes back to the earth with His Church at the end of the Tribulation. The resurrected, glorified David will be serving his King and God in this honourable position as a reward for his faithful service while living on this earth in his mortal body.

While David was alive on this earth in his mortal body, he had this testimony:

Acts 13:22 NLT paraphrase

But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘*I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart* [a quotation of 1 Samuel 13:14]. He will do everything I want him to do.’

This promise that Israel’s greatest and most godly king, known as the sweet psalmist of Israel (see 2 Samuel 23:1), will one day again be a prince and shepherd over Israel again is repeated in several places. The fulfilment of this promise will be when Jesus returns at His Second Coming (at the end of the 7 year tribulation) to the earth to rule and reign from Israel for a 1,000 years. In addition to the two Scriptures quoted below, you can read Isaiah 55:3-4 and Jeremiah 30:8-9.

Ezekiel 37:25 NLT paraphrase

They will live in the land I gave my servant Jacob, the land where their ancestors lived [Israel]. They and their children and their grandchildren after them will live there forever, generation after generation. And my servant David will be their prince forever.

Hosea 3:5 NKJV

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

v 24 **My servant David a prince:** Notice here that David is not described as a king, but as a prince, which is a lesser office. Jesus will be the King who rules over the whole world from Israel, with David ruling as a prince under Him.

“In Ezekiel 34:24 the prophet does not call him ‘king’ (*melek*) but ‘prince’ (*nasi*).... He will not be a typical ancient Near Eastern monarch, but God’s ‘servant’ who presides over the kingdom that God rules.” (Vawter and Hoppe)

Ezekiel 34:25-30 NKJV—God will bless and protect His people

“I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. ²⁶ I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. ²⁷ Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. ²⁸ And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid. ²⁹ I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. ³⁰ Thus they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people,” says the Lord God.’ ”

v 25 **I will make a covenant of peace with them:** This is another promise connected to the New Covenant, and again, it’s complete and final fulfilment will be during the Millennial Kingdom when Christ reigns on the earth for a thousand years. Other verses that refer to this time of peace during Christ’s Millennial Reign include:

Isaiah 2:4 NLT paraphrase

The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.**

Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

⁶ **In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely;** Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

v 25 **A covenant of peace:** “The description offers one of the fullest explications of the Hebrew notion of *shalom*. The term obviously signifies much more than the absence of hostility or tension. It speaks of wholeness, harmony, fulfilment, humans at peace with their environment and with God.” (Block)

v 25-29 **They will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods ... cause wild beasts to cease from the land ... there shall be showers of blessing ... the earth shall yield her increase ... I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land:** Here we learn more about just how beautiful and glorious it will be during the Millennial reign. Not only will there be genuine peace over all the earth (not just the absence of war), but the ecology (including both animals and plants and weather systems) of planet earth will be transformed. Can you even try to imagine what this would look like, living in today’s world with it’s earthquakes, droughts, famines, floods, and millions dying of hunger every year? **A garden of renown**—Israel will look like the garden of Eden did before Adam sinned, producing abundant food for the people (also see Hosea 2:22; Joel 3:18; Zechariah 8:12). God has already started this transformation of the land of Israel; Israel is already the fruit and vegetable basket for Europe.

Amos 9:13-15 NKJV

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

¹⁴ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

¹⁵ I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

Isaiah 11:6-12 NKJV (also see Isaiah 65:20-25)

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

¹¹ It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. ¹² He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

“The context is the consummation of the present age and the opening of the new age. The scattered flock have been gathered to their own land in an eschatological act of deliverance, not without its element of judgment. United and purified, they now enter upon the supernatural golden age of peace and prosperity.” (Taylor)

v 28 **No longer a prey for the nations ... They shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid:** This seems impossible today with all the enemies Israel has, but this is God’s promise to Israel, and it will be fulfilled when Jesus returns at His Second Coming and rules the earth with an iron rod for 1,000 years (also see Jeremiah 23:6, 30:8–9, and Psalm 2).

v 30 **Thus they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them:** Even today, before the seven year Tribulation has begun, God has already begun His work of regathering His people Israel. It should be obvious to the whole world that God is real and that He keeps His promises. Humanly speaking, Israel should no longer exist as a nation today. After nearly 2,000 years in exile, scattered among the nations, and persecuted almost continuously, they should have, like many other nations in their position, just disappeared or be absorbed into the surrounding cultures.

Ezekiel 34:31 NKJV—God Assures His people Israel

“You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God,” says the Lord God.

v 31 **You are the flock of My pasture:** What blessed assurance; despite all their disobedience and rebellion, they were still God’s flock. O the mercy and grace of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Never forget the promise given to the church—“*I will never leave you or forsake you.*” (Hebrews 13:5)

v 31 **You are men, and I am your God:** “This wonderful reminder assured Israel that even though they were like sheep, they were much more than sheep. They were **men**, made in the image of God and capable of so much more than sheep. They needed to recognise their place as creatures (**men**) and God’s place as Creator (**I am your God**). This was both their glory and their responsibility before God.” (David Guzik)

Application and conclusion: The promise of reward for faithful service

Like David, all believers have the same promise, the same opportunity, to be used in a significant way in the Millennial kingdom, helping Jesus to rule and reign over His kingdom.

Matthew 25:14-21 NKJV

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹ **His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’**”

Simply put, the degree of our love and faithfulness to God in this life will determine what level of service we will be given in the next, especially during Jesus’ Millennial Reign on the earth. To receive a full reward I must be faithful to use my time, talents, spiritual gifts, and opportunities for service in a way that glorifies God, and not live for myself.

2 John 8 NKJV

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 AMP

But if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ The work of each [one] will become [plainly, openly] known (shown for what it is); for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done.

¹⁴ If the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] **survives [this test], he will get his reward.**

¹⁵ But if any person’s work is burned up [under the test], **he will suffer the loss [of it all, losing his reward]**, though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire. [Job 23:10.]

Living for ourselves now will cost us a lot in the coming kingdom. Am I willing, like David, to surrender my will to God's, to be someone of whom God could say, *He is a man after My own heart, He will do everything I want Him to do.* If so, then like David, I will receive a glorious reward, ruling and reigning with Christ in His Kingdom as Christ sees fit to use me. However, if in this life I choose to live for myself, seeking my own pleasure, then I will enjoy the worldly pleasures for a time, but miss out on my eternal reward—I will not be given the position of honour and service that I could have enjoyed for eternity—my capacity to enjoy eternity will be limited. We only have one chance to live this life. We must keep our eyes on the things above, the eternal things, and not be consumed and distracted by the things of this world (see Colossians 3:1-4).

Here's a testimony and poem from C. T. Studd (<https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/only-one-life-twill-soon-be-past-by-c-t-studd-1860-1931/>)

Charles Thomas Studd, better known as C. T. Studd, was a British missionary. He was born on December 2, 1860, in Spratton, United Kingdom, into a family of wealth and privilege. In 1883 he graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1885 entered the missions field with Hudson Taylor in China.

C.T. Studd spent his life in dedicated service to the Lord, serving in China, India, and Africa.

Only One Life, Twill Soon Be Past
by C.T. Studd

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its days I must fulfill.
living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore,
When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;
**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Oh let my love with fervour burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.**