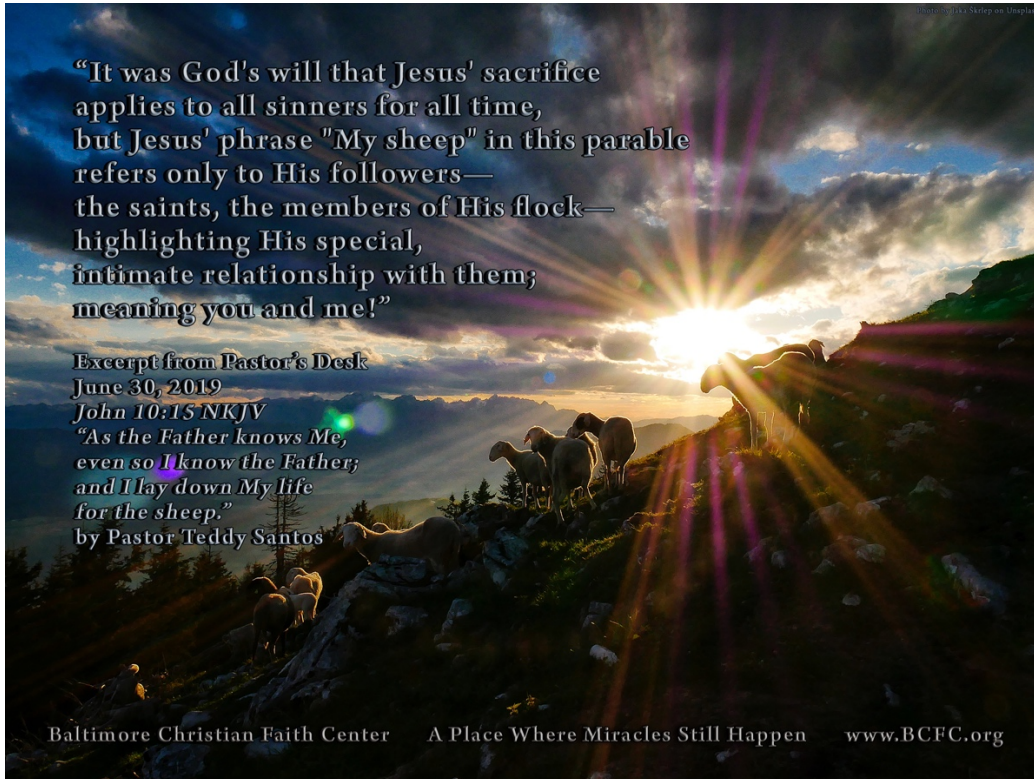


John 10:15 NKJV “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

Pastor’s Desk – June 30, 2019



Several times Jesus mentions, "I lay down My life for the sheep," or "I lay it down." It is significant that of His own will, He gave Himself up to die. The Romans did not take it from Him—He gave it voluntarily for His sheep (verse 11). He made it clear that Pilate was not condemning Him, but that He was accepting death. Jesus lived His life as an act of obedience to God, His Father. Furthermore, when He died, He became the atoning sacrifice for the whole world. The sacrifice of the Shepherd justifies God's graciousness.

In the Old Testament, the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies was symbolic of God's throne, where He sat in judgment (Hebrews 9:5). When the Good Shepherd gave His life in bloody sacrifice for sinners once for all, the Mercy Seat became a "throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16). It was God's will that Jesus' sacrifice applies to all sinners for all time, but Jesus' phrase "My sheep" in this parable refers only to His followers—the saints, the members of His flock—highlighting His special, intimate relationship with them; meaning you and me!

How is your relationship with the Master? Is it intimate? Is it casual? Do you pursue or just let things occur? When you think of the Ultimate Sacrifice, always remember how special you were to the Master when he said these words, John 10:28 NKJV "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

In His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos