

# “The Lord Is My Shepherd”

## Psalm 23

### Introduction:

- A. This great psalm has comforted the dying and the bereaved for centuries.
- B. Jehovah was David’s shepherd, Jesus is the Christian’s shepherd (John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4)
- C. The theme of the psalm is in verse 1
- D. If we will let the Lord be our Shepherd, there are certain *needs* for which we will not want.

### Discussion

#### I. Provisions (v. 2, 5)

- A. The faithful Christian is promised life’s necessities (Matt. 6:33; Psa. 37:25).
  - 1. Not everything we might desire (health and wealth gospel).
  - 2. But, everything we need in abundance (cup runs over)
- B. The faithful Christian is content with these (1 Tim. 6:8)
- C. This promise is not to the lazy, nor the unfaithful.

#### II. Leadership (vv. 2, 3)

- A. Jesus is our supreme leader – the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
  - 1. The best of earthly leaders have faults.
  - 2. His leadership takes precedence over all other.
- B. The instrument of His leadership is His word. (Psa. 119:105)
  - 1. Christ abides in us when his word abides in us – ( John 15:5-7 – Compare v.5 with v.7)
  - 2. God leads us in the paths of righteousness by His word. (Psa. 119:172)

#### III. Security (v. 4)

- A. One can feel secure – without fear – when the Lord is with him.
- B. The faithful Christ has no reason to fear.
  - 1. Because he that promises in faithful. (Heb. 10:23).
  - 2. He has promised not to forsake or leave us (Heb. 13:5)
  - 3. He has promised to be with us even through death (Rom. 8:37-39)
- C. Those not faithful to Christ have every reason to fear (Heb. 10:34-38; Rev. 21:8)

#### IV. Comfort (v. 4)

- A. The “rod” was used to count the sheep (Lev. 27:32)
  - 1. What a comfort to be numbered among his sheep?
  - 2. What a comfort to be recognized as one of His? (Cf. 1 John 3:1)
- B. The “staff” was used to protect the sheep from prey.
- C. The words of Scripture are a comfort in the worst of times (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

#### V. Mercy (v. 6a)

- A. Without mercy there would be no security or comfort.
- B. The Lord is not looking for an excuse to punish his sheep – is merciful.
  - 1. Without his mercy we would be forever lost (Titus 3:5)
  - 2. We begotten by his mercy – when we obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:3; 22, 23)
  - 3. He will have no mercy on those who reject Christ (Heb. 10:26-29).

#### VI. Heaven (v. 6b)

- A. Goodness and mercy for life – then after life is over forever in the Lord’s house (cf. 1 Thess. 4:17)
- B. A dwelling place prepared for the faithful (John 14:2-6)
- C. An inheritance reserved in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4)

### Conclusion:

- A. The Lord will be our shepherd, only if we let him.
- B. Won’t you respond to his mercy by obeying the gospel?