

Psalm 23 - cont.

correct and right way. The “paths of righteousness” are found in God’s word (Romans 1:17; Hebrews 5:13; 2 Timothy 3:16). We must seek these “paths” (Matthew 5:6; 6:33), preach these “paths” (Acts 24:25), and live in these “paths” (1 Corinthians 15:34).

The Lord shows his people the correct and right way. We must use these “paths” for protection (Ephesians 6:14). We must not leave these “paths” like others do (2 Peter 2:21).

The Lord leads this way to bring honor to his own high and holy name. He leads for his name’s sake — on account of his own character (Ezekiel 36:22-38). The Lord only is to be glorified (Isaiah 42:6-8). The Lord who saves in Christ is the one who is praised (Ephesians 1:6).

Friend, is the Lord Jesus your shepherd? Many today are like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). They need guidance! Will you let the Lord lead you today? The Lord is ready to lead the sinner out of sin, lead the erring back to him, and lead the saint to heaven. Where will you be standing when the chief Shepherd comes at the end of time, on his right hand or left (Matthew 25:32)? - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

When I read Matthew 10:8, I see that Jesus told his disciples, “freely you have received, freely give.” I realize that this is a great principle that should guide my life each day. I have freely received from Jesus so many wonderful things and I now need to turn around and freely give those things to others. I’ve have been freely given love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, help, peace, the church, and God’s word. This week I’m going to freely give to others what I have freely received from the Lord.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Psalm 23: The Shepherd Psalm (Part I)

Psalm 23 is one of the more popular psalms in the Old Testament. It is read by soldiers going to battle, by those who are suffering, by those who grieve at funerals, by families who lose loved-ones to sin, by the guilty, the lonely, the depressed, the forsaken, and by Christians for daily living.

This psalm is attributed to David who himself was an experienced shepherd (1 Samuel 16:11; 17:34-37,40; Psalm 78:70-72). He had already experienced the Lord's assistance in life and he also taught about the Lord's shepherding (Psalm 79:13; 80:1; 100:3).

Psalm 23, known as the "Shepherd Psalm", can be outlined in the following way: The Lord our shepherd **feeds us** (vv. 1-2), **leads us** (vv. 2-3), **protects us** (v. 4), and **blesses us** (vv. 5-6). Let's take a look at this great psalm for some lessons for today.

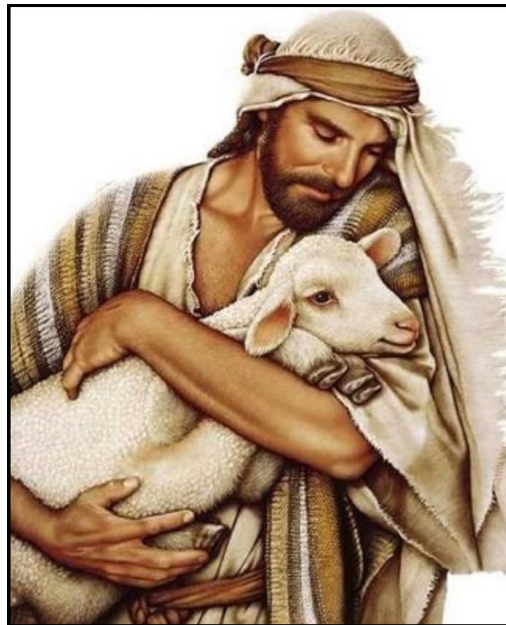
The Lord is My Shepherd

Today, the Lord Jesus is also a "shepherd" (Ezekiel 34:1ff; Mt. 26:31 [Zech. 13:7]; Jn. 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4). He feeds, guides, protects, nurtures, shelters, comforts, keeps safe, seeks and finds, and fights for his sheep. We must per-

sonally allow Jesus to be our shepherd.

I Shall Not Want

The Lord will provide for all our needs. We will not "want" or lack any good thing (Philippians 4:19). He will provide for our physical needs (Psalm 34:9-10;



84:11; Matthew 6:32-33) and out spiritual needs (Ephesians 1:3ff) as well. The Lord will provide for our needs, not our selfish wants (James 4:1ff). We should let what "I will" be what God wills. Let us be thankful and content with what the Lord provides (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5).

He Makes Me to Lie Down in Green Pastures

The Lord provides a place to "lie down" and rest (Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:11). He also provides "green pastures" [Heb. *tender grass*] for nourishment (Ezekiel 34:14; John 10:9).

He Leads Me Beside Still Waters

The Lord takes his people to "still" waters that are quiet, at rest, calm, and peaceful (Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:2). He also takes his people to still "waters" that offer refreshment for the soul (John 4:10ff; 7:38; Revelation 7:17; 22:1,6,17).

He Restores My Soul

The Lord "restores" (converts) his people to an upright position after they have been cast down (Psalm 19:7). They may be cast down due to ease (Amos 3:12; 6:1), to sin (Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:4-7; Hebrews 12:1-2), or to affluence (Revelations 3:17).

He Guides Me in Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake

The Lord shows his people the