

# PSALMS 23

This Psalm has become the favorite of many. It is often memorized and recited. Why? Because it is a beautiful expression of God's loving care and protection. It describes the peace and calm delight that is found when one trusts wholly in the Lord.

David could relate to both shepherding sheep and being a sheep in the fold of God.

As lad (1Sa.16:11) leading sheep.

As a "man after God's own heart" (Act.13:22) he could relate to God's care for him. He knew of hostilities. He had soothed the king with songs, yet was chased out of the king's court.

He experienced dread and fear. As heir to the throne he was viciously pursued by King Saul for many years. Later his own son, Absalom, rose up against him.

## Psalm 23 (A Psalm of David)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art

with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. 5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### Confidence expressed

*The Lord is my shepherd.* His care and protection are a matter of fact

One of His sheep. "My" is emphasized. relationship is beyond question.

Not wolves, Mat.7:15, Act.20:29; dogs (Phi.3:2), goats (Mat.25:33)

*I shall not want.* Lord cares and will provide.

### The grounds for confidence: He was following the Lord.

*He makes me lie down in green pastures:* well fed; spiritual food.

Joh.6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

*He leads me beside quiet waters:* suitable for drinking; spiritual drink.

1Co.10:4. "and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ."

*He restores my soul:* quickens spirit, renews life of burdened, worn. Psa.19:7

*He guides me in the paths of righteousness:* direction for living; a lamp unto his feet.

Psa.119:105

*For His name's sake:* to His glory. Mat.5:16

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death: dreaded circumstances.*

*Through, not around. Psa.23:4*

*The path is sure, but not always easy. Mat.7:13-14*

*I fear no evil: protector is close by. Lord is near. Phi.4:4-5*

*Thy rod and staff, they comfort me: symbols of power and protection. Rom.8:31-32*

## **The outcome is a blessing**

*Thou dost prepare a table before me: nourishment for body and soul*

*Thou hast anointed my head with oil: loving care and concern*

*My cup overflows: more than adequate provisions, abundant*

*Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Both in this life and hereafter.*

## **APPLICATION TODAY**

**Christ is our shepherd.** Heb.13:20, 1Pe.5:4

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." Joh.10:27*

**Christ provides.** 2Pe.1:2-4

*He feeds us the Words of life. Joh.6:68*

*He laid down His life as good shepherd. Joh.10:11*

*He watches over us. 1Pe.3:12*

**Christ guides**

*"I am the Way." Joh.14:1-6. "Follow me." He is in front leading.*

*He guided the Apostles into all truth. Joh.14:26*

*His Word given to guide us. 1Ti.3:16-17*

Psalms 23 is a beautiful expression of God's care and protection. God's grace and care has always been provided for His own. "His sheep am I" are words which give substance to finding consolation in this Psalm.