

Jesus, Our Shepherd

Psalms 23:1

23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

In verse one, the Lord is our; protector, our provider, our leader, our counselor, our Saviour. We shall not want. Jesus provides our every need.

In verse two, Jesus likens himself to a shepherd and us his children, as his sheep. Jesus has provided us with green (rich) pastures to feed in, to lie down in, to be protected, to be at peace, and to be at rest with security. Jesus leads us beside still (quiet) peaceful waters to refresh ourselves to quench our thirst.

In verse three, he restores our souls-Jesus refreshes our walk in him, he renews our faith, he encourages us in trying times. Jesus leads us in the path of righteousness for his names' sake-the good path, the good way, the narrow way that leads to everlasting life!

Verse four says though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death; I will fear no evil;

I hear the scriptures, Oh death where is thy sting (where is thy power) where is your strength; Oh grave where is thy victory, for the sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law. But Jesus has delivered us from eternal death and hell through his precious, saving blood which he shed for us at Calvary. Death has no power over us; the children of God. As a good shepherd, Jesus protects us with his rod and staff.

Verse five states that, thou preparest a table for me---in the presence of our enemies; (all that live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution from the enemies of good). Jesus will make a way for us even when there is no way---In the presence of our enemies he will still provide us with spiritual and natural nourishment.

In verse six, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

“But” to receive these promises from God—we must obey his commandments.

Malachi 3:10-12

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

This says bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse; a commandment

(This will take us back to verse eight,)

Malachi 3:8

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Continuing on in verse 10 now that there may be meat (food in mine house and prove me not therewith saith the LORD of hosts!)

Church we tithe unto God; not to a building, nor to a man. (If I will not open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing;) **Church, you can not out give God!**

Verse 11 says, and I will rebuke the devourer-the destroyer, satan.

Continuing on in verse 12, all nations shall call us blessed!

Isaiah 40: 10-11 (he prophesied)

10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

John 10: 1-18

10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

- 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.
- 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
- 6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.
- 7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.
- 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.
- 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
- 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
- 11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
- 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.
- 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.
- 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.
- 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.
- 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Every church needs a God appointed, God called, God sent Pastor so he can shepherd us in the way of our Lord, through his ordained ministry. Especially in times such as we are in today, there is so much corruption, evil, and filthiness of the flesh in the world around us that we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together in these perilous times. Let us continue without ceasing, seeking the love and direction of our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ.