

PSALM 23
THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE PRESENTATION OF THE SHEPHERD
PSALM 23:1

Introduction

In our introduction to this **PSALM**, we looked at *THE PSALM and THE SHEEP*.

We know the one who penned this **PSALM** was **DAVID**, who was himself a **SHEPHERD!** The **LORD**, in **HIS PROVIDENCE**, saw to it that **DAVID** was in a place where **HE** could teach **HIM** these truths that we see here!

As **DAVID SHEPHERDED** his **SHEEP** and communed with the **LORD**, the **LORD** pointed him to the correlation between what he is doing (i.e. tending to or **SHEPHERDING SHEEP**) and how the **LORD SHEPHERDS HIS** own people!

This **PSALM**, as we will see, speaks of the **GREAT SHEPHERD** and **HIS SHEEP!**

DAVID, though he was a **SHEPHERD** himself, did not see himself in that light in this **PSALM** but rather saw himself as being a **SHEEP**.
“The LORD is my shepherd.”

SHEEP, are inclined to be **WEAK, WANDERING, and GOING ASTRAY** and thus we become **EASY PREY** for our enemy, the **DEVIL**.

Our wanting to go our own way only hurts and endangers us! Like a flock of **SHEEP** we need a **SHEPHERD!** To live our life without the **SHEPHERD** brings about our own demise!

Oh how we need to see ourselves as **SHEEP** in need of the **GOOD SHEPHERD!** The **GREAT SHEPHERD WHO** will **PROVIDE for us and PROTECT us!**

Once we admit that we need our **GOOD and GREAT SHEPHERD**, then the built in blessings of this **SHEPHERD led life** begins to bring **COMFORT** and **CARE** to our **HEARTS** and **LIVES!**

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So, what we want to see here is that THE FOCUS IS ON THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD AND WHAT HE DOES FOR HIS SHEEP!

Today we hear a lot about **MENTORS** and **MENTORING**. A **MENTOR** is a **WISE, TRUSTED COUNSELOR** or **TEACHER** in some area of life. Many folks have **MENTORS** in different areas of their life. That could be in their **SECULAR LIFE** (such as their **WORK LIFE**) or it might be their **SPIRITUAL LIFE!** They look to a **MENTOR** in order to **LEARN** from them.

Though the word **MENTOR** is not used in **SCRIPTURE**, the idea is!
Consider the words of our LORD JESUS CHRIST:

Matthew 4:19– “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 8:22– “But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”

Matthew 16:24– “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 19:21– “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”

Matthew 11:28–30– “28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Consider what the APOSTLE PAUL said in two of his letters:

1 Corinthians 11:1– “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

Philippians 3:17– “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”

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Consider what the **APOSTLE PETER** said in his letter:

1 Peter 2:21– “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

MENTORS are well and good if they are proper **MENTORS** teaching us that which is good and right! But more than a **MENTOR** we need a **SHEPHERD**. Yes, **JESUS CHRIST** is to be our **MENTOR** — **HE** is our **TRUSTED COUNSELOR** and **TEACHER!** But before **HE** can **MENTOR** us, we must see **HIM** as the **SHEPHERD** of our lives— the **ONE WHO LEADS, GUIDES, AND PROTECTS US!**

GOD’S WORD says that we are all like **SHEEP**. (*Isaiah 53:6*) **SHEEP** are defenseless, dependent animals who are prone to wander.

The **LORD JESUS** desires to be our **SHEPHERD!** **HE** calls us to **HIMSELF** to **FOLLOW HIM!**

John 10:27– “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”

We mentioned last time that **PSALM 23** is part of a trilogy of **PSALMS 22, 23, and 24** with each of these **PSALMS** giving us a message about our **SHEPHERD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

I. WE SEE THE LORD IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD!

PSALM 22 looks forward to **CHRIST’S CRUCIFIXION** for our sins!

CHRIST made it very clear **WHO** the **GOOD SHEPHERD** is and what **HE**, as the **GOOD SHEPHERD**, would do for us!

John 10:11–“I am the good shepherd: The good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.

John 10:14–“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

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CHRIST proved **HIS LOVE** for us by giving **HIS LIFE** for us! **HE** died to pay the **PENALTY** of our **SIN!**

As the **GOOD SHEPHERD, CHRIST** leads us to **HIS GOSPEL** where **HE** becomes our **GOOD SHEPHERD** that died for us!

II. WE SEE THE LORD IS OUR GREAT SHEPHERD!

PSALM 23 shows us the **GREAT SHEPHERD** who lives to meet all of our needs!

Look at **HEBREWS 13:20-21**.

What is the ministry of the **GREAT SHEPHERD?** He lives to deliver us from the **POWER OF SIN!**

CHRIST IS THE GREAT SHEPHERD WHO arose from the dead!

We all know that living the **CHRISTIAN** life is a struggle. As **BELIEVERS**, our old nature and new nature are constantly battling within us! We face **TEMPTATION** to **SIN** on a daily basis! What help do we have when **TEMPTATION** comes our way?

We can look to our **GREAT SHEPHERD** to aid us and help us! He can and will **LEAD** us in the **PATHS** that we should walk if we will submit ourselves to **HIM!**

III. WE SEE THE LORD IS OUR CHIEF SHEPHERD!

Psalms 24 shows **HIM** coming again to rule and reign! In **Psalms 24:7-10** we see the triumphant picture of our coming **KING!**

Look at **1 Peter 5:1-4**. Here we see that this coming **KING** is our **CHIEF SHEPHERD!**

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Conclusion

As the **GOOD SHEPHERD, CHRIST** delivers us from the penalty of sin!
As the **GREAT SHEPHERD, CHRIST** delivers us from the power of sin!
As the **CHIEF SHEPHERD, CHRIST** will one day deliver us from the very presence of sin!

DAVID makes a **DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE** in stating, "*The LORD is my Shepherd.*" He had made the decision of **WHO HIS SHEPHERD** was! He emphatically states the **LORD** is "*my*" **SHEPHERD!**

In the presentation of the **SHEPHERD** here it leads us to this question, "*Who or what shepherds you?*" Rather than go through an endless list of so-called **SHEPHERDS**, let's get to the bottom line.

Anything or anyone other than **JESUS CHRIST** as one's **SHEPHERD** will leave that person **WANTING** or **LACKING!**

A life that is lived in constant **WANT** clearly shows the **LORD** is not the **SHEPHERD**. When the "**WANTS**" of this life draw us and we go after them, we go astray like **SHEEP** straying away from the care of **SHEPHERD**.

DAVID said, "*The LORD is my shepherd I shall not want.*"

Let's reacquaint ourselves with our **SHEPHERD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

1 Peter 2:25– "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."