

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

Introduction: Everybody needs somebody sometime, sooner or later. Some don't like to admit it, some will get into serious trouble before admitting that they need some help. There are those who don't seem to be able to "comb their hair" unless there's somebody to tell them how. Nevertheless, everybody needs spiritual help for there's no way that anybody can live like God wants without some help and that's where the Christian's "shepherd" comes in. That Christian Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

1. A shepherd (the Lord) knows the needs of his sheep.
 - They are weak, unable to defend themselves (Christians against Satan).
 - They are foolish, blindly follow another into dangerous places.
 - They are thoughtless, simply don't have the knowledge to evaluate the outcome of their actions.
 - They are prone to go astray. They don't have a built in sense of direction (Christians don't listen to the Holy Spirit very well).
2. Sheep (Christians) need love and thoughtfulness, a good provider, preserver, guide, physician and friend.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ provides all Christians need and we have no need of anything.
 - Rest, refreshment, nourishment, forgiveness, restoration, fellowship, deliverance from fear, comfort in sorrow, victory over enemies, security in troubled hours, power to serve and a home at the end of the way.

II. THE LORD (SHEPHERD) LEADS TO REST AND REFRESHMENT

1. The Christian's shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, makes us be still sometimes, for the good of our body as well as our soul and spirit.
2. A restless person who had gone to many doctors and none helped him, was told by another doctor to read the 23rd Psalm five times a day. After one week the man had found peace and happiness.

III. THE LORD (SHEPHERD) LEADS INTO THE RIGHT WAYS

1. The Christian's shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, is a competent leader. He can only lead us right because of who He is. We are the only interest of concern He has.
2. The Christian's shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ is a compassionate leader. Not everything we do is pleasant, but Jesus went ahead to the cross on our behalf anyway.

3. The Christian's shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ is a constant leader. There is no other friend like Jesus. He can be with us all at the same time, no matter where we are or the circumstances in life.

IV. THE LORD (SHEPHERD) LEADS THROUGH GLOOM AND DANGERS IN LIFE

1. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is with us when we are in dark, scary parts of our life. In uncertainty, in dangerous times.
2. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is even nearer when these dark times are upon us. Fear draws us closer to Him.

V. THE LORD (SHEPHERD) HAS A PLACE FOR US WHEN OUR DAY IS DONE

1. Our Lord Jesus is preparing a place for us, at this very moment.
2. When it is ready, He will come for us, whether it be one at a time or all at once.
3. Christian, who can be afraid to go to the eternal, everlasting home Jesus has prepared for you?

CONCLUSION:

1. Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Shepherd?
2. Jesus Christ is indeed a good Shepherd, but is He YOUR shepherd?
3. If so, then rejoice for you shall be well cared for.
4. If not, there is room for you in His "flock."