

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm (Part 1)

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 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. (KJV)

### Faith "The Lord is my Shepherd"

- Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd..." **John10:11**
- The church is His flock of sheep. **John10:16;**  
**Acts 20:28**
- Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. **John10:27**  
*cf. Romans10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- They do not follow strangers. **John10:5**
- Is Christ your shepherd and are you following Him?

### Assurance "I shall not want"

- **cf.1 Samuel 17:32-37** David challenging Goliath.
- Results from teaching. **Psalms 37:23-25;**  
**Matthew 6:33**
- God will supply our needs. **Matthew 7:7-8;**  
**Hebrews 13:5-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11**
- **Hebrews 10:22** "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

### Contentment "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"

- **1 Timothy 6:6** "But godliness with contentment is great gain." **cf. verses 7-8; Philippians 4:11-13**
- Failing to be satisfied leads to other sins:
  - Covetousness. **Luke 12:13-15**
  - Envy, jealousy and strife.

### Peace "He leadeth me beside the still waters"

- Restless and troubled waters are dangerous. **cf. Mark4:36-41**
- The still quiet waters are peaceful and safe. **Mark 4:38**
- Jesus is our "Prince of Peace." **cf. Isaiah 9:6**
- Peace is valuable. **Philippians 4:7; Matthew 5:9; Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 3:10-12; Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:1-4**

## Peace "He leadeth me beside the still waters"

### Not peace at any price!

- Put on the whole armor of God. **Ephesians 6:10**
- "Fight the good fight of faith." **1 Timothy 6:12**
- Realize it is a spiritual battle. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**
- Contend earnestly for the faith. **Jude 3**

## Life "He restoreth my soul"

To restore the soul seems to imply life again.  
cf. **James 2:26**

"If a man die, shall he live again." **Job 14:14**

– This is why David was not afraid to walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

– This is why he ate instead of fasting when his son died. He could go to him. **2 Samuel 12:22-23**

■ Evidently David foresaw the resurrection.  
cf. **Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:31**

■ Jesus spoke of the resurrection. **John 11:25**  
– All will be raised. **John 5:28-29**

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm...

- Can you speak with the faith, conviction, confidence and assurance of David?
- Only if you have let the Lord be your shepherd.

■ If you've not had Him as your Shepherd, why not start now?