

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm (Part 2)

- 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)

### Psalms 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; **FAITH** I shall not want. **ASSURANCE**
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: **CONTENTMENT** he leadeth me beside the still waters. **PEACE**
- 3 He restoreth my soul: **LIFE** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **LEADERSHIP**

### Leadership "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"

#### The Lord leads, David followed.

- Man cannot direct his own steps. **cf. Jeremiah 10:23**
- David was led by God through the teaching of the OT
- Today God leads us through the NT
  - God's righteousness is found in the gospel. **Romans 1:16-17**
  - All of us are to walk by this same rule. **Philippians 3:15,16; cf. Hebrews 12:1-2**

### Leadership "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"

#### The Lord leads and we are to follow. Luke 9:23

- Many rather elect to follow blind guides. **cf. Matthew 15:14**
  - Their end is the ditch. **cf. verse 13**
- The Lord is the Good Shepherd and cares for the sheep. **John 10:1-4, 11-14**
  - We can follow with confidence.

### Leadership "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"

#### The Lord has the words of life.

- Peter and the disciples could not look elsewhere. **cf. John 6:66-68; cf. John 16:13f; Romans 8:14**
- Now he has proven that He can and will lead us through the valley of the shadow of death.
  - He was tempted. **cf. Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15**
  - He died. **Hebrews 2:14-15**
- And He proved that man can and will be raised from the dead. **cf. Acts 2:24; Colossians 2:15**
- We are to walk as He walked. **1 John 2:5-6; 1 Peter 2:21**

### Confidence "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"

- The walk is the walk all men must take. **Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 9:5**
- Such confidence is born of hope. **Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:6,8; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**
- Such hope should rest upon the promises of God. **2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 10:22-23**
- All the fear of death should be removed from us. **Hebrews 2:14-15; Hebrews 13:5-6**

### Courage "I will fear no evil"

- David had shown courage all of his life. **cf. 1 Samuel 17:37**
- The man who fears God has no need to fear any other thing. **Matthew 10:28; Acts 10:34-35**
- John teaches us how to completely eliminate fear. **1 John 4:18**

### Companionship "For thou art with me"

#### How can we have Him as our companion?

- We must come to where God is. **1 Timothy 6:16**
- We must come to walk where He dwells. **1 John 1:5-7**
- We must keep His commandments. **1 John 2:3-5; 3:24; James 4:8**
- **cf. 2 Chronicles 15:2** "...*Jehovah is with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.*"

### Companionship "For thou art with me"

#### How can we have Him as our companion?

- Must be careful not to go beyond God's word or encourage those who do.
- **2 John 9-10** "*Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into (your) house, and give him no greeting.*"

### Comfort "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

- God would use His rod to punish His enemies. **Psalms 9:16** "*Jehovah hath made himself known, he hath executed judgment: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.*"
- His staff leads to a place of comfort for His followers. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 14:13**

### The 23rd 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?**