

The 23rd Psalm (Part 3)

■ 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)

Providence: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies"

We have the same promises.

- **Proverbs 28:25** "...he that putteth his trust in Jehovah shall be made fat."
- **Psalms 37:25** "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."
- cf. **Matthew 6:32-33**

■ The enemy may seem to have the victory, but the saints always win. **Revelation 19:11-21; 20:4-6.**

Favor "Thou anointest my head with oil"

- To be anointed of the Lord is to:
 - Be chosen of the Lord.
 - The term "Christ," means God's anointed.
 - Be in His favor. cf. **1 Samuel 16:13**
- God has chosen and anointed certain ones today.
 - "**IN CHRIST**" NOT INDIVIDUAL! **Ephesians 1:3-4**
 - We are a chosen generation. **1 Peter 2:9**
 - And in His favor. **Ephesians 3:16-19**

Joy "My cup runneth over"

- There is no more room for blessings. He is overjoyed as a result.
 - Christians rejoice "in Christ."
 - The eunuch went on his way rejoiced. **Acts 8:39**
 - The jailer's household rejoiced. **Acts 16:34**
 - All Christians should rejoice. **1 Peter 4:12-14; Matthew 5:11-12; Philipians 3:1; 4:4**
- No one on earth has more right to rejoice than the people of God.

Mercy "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"

- God's goodness is reserved for those who continue in His goodness. **Romans 11:22**
 - The prodigal understood that the goodness of His father's house was reserved for those who lived there. cf. **Luke 15:17**
- The blessings of salvation are reserved for those who continue to walk therein. **1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Colossians 1:21-23**

Immortality "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever"

David understood that following the Lord not only provided blessings here, but that it provided for eternal life.

- Abraham had this kind of faith. **Heb. 11:10-16**
- Job reflected it too. **Job 14:14**
- Godliness not only has the promise of the life that now is but that which is to come. **1 Timothy 4:8; Mark 10:28-30**
- We will have a new body – **2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 3:20,21; 1 Corinthians 15:52-57**
- It is reserved in heaven for us. **1 Peter 4:5**

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**

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **CONFIDENCE** I will fear no evil: **COURAGE**

Psalms 23

...for thou art with me; **COMPANIONSHIP** thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. **COMFORT**

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

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

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?**