

Crossing the Valley: Psalm23; part2

1. The LORD is My Shepherd

- A. The shepherd is _____ to protect, provide and lead the sheep, and he cares for them
1. The LORD, the Almighty God, came after us, went to the cross to save us – for love!
 2. He is MY Shepherd! He loves me! He protects me and keeps my soul! He leads me! Provides!
- B. People will _____ – but there is never a time, you cannot call on the LORD, your Shepherd!
1. No matter how dark your pain; no matter how terrible your situation, even in failure...at any time of day or night, His sheep can call out to Him; He not only has time for us, He will sit with us, comfort us, remind us, He is with us!
 2. This is the testimony of David's relationship and walk with the LORD!

2. I Shall Not Want – 7 ways (3 today) the LORD protects, leads and provides for us in all we need

- A. He _____ my soul – He makes me lie down in green pastures, beside quiet waters
1. Green pastures and quiet waters are *in the valley*, not the mountain-tops
 2. In the valley, God restores our soul thru His Word/Prayer, as we spend time in His presence
 3. Psalms show us this, things grow best in the valley! He restores our soul, in the valley!
- B. He guides me in _____ of righteousness (*Prov3:5-6*)
1. God's ways are only in righteousness; He will _____ lead you in wickedness (*1Pe1:15-16*)
***Consider** this w/ every prayer you pray, every decision you make in life!
***Ex.** David when he had the opportunity to kill King Saul...
 2. To follow the Lord Jesus, means to walk in righteousness – *James1:22; Rom6:11-18*
 3. All other paths, sin and wickedness lead to death! *So, are you following the Shepherd?!!!*

C. He leads me _____ the valley of the shadow of death

1. We live our whole life in the shadow of death, because of sin, life is filled with pain, trouble
2. He is _____ me IN THE VALLEY, so I will not fear! *Josh1:9; Ps18:1-6; Ps27:1-6!!!*
***How did David know this?** _____
3. He _____ me IN THE VALLEY with His rod and staff (protection and correction)
*Protection: the rod/club – strike enemies; *Ps3:1-8*
*Correction – staff, place of darkness, shepherd strikes the sheep so knows he is there!
4. He _____ IN THE VALLEY forever, **WE** cross the valley of death together!
**Ps18:16-19; Ps40:1-3* – these are the testimonies of all the righteous thru life! One day death!

3. The Valley of Death Becomes a Valley of Worship! *Ps84:5-7*

- A. Those whose strength is in God, He is their Shepherd they follow and trust – cross the valley! (vs.6)
- B. The valley, the rain/storms, trials are made into springs of joy, spiritual growth, strength! (vs.7)
- C. **Why? How?** _____