

The Shepherd's Confidence for the Future

Psalm 23:6 / Romans 8:28

Q: How do you feel when you think about the future?

- How we see the future depends on our **perspective**. Perspective is shaped in large part by our:
 - ▶ Past experiences,
 - ▶ Present circumstances
 - ▶ Presuppositions

Q: What do you believe determines your future?

David had confidence in facing the future because he understood the nature of the Good Shepherd.

David reveals two unassailable reasons why believers can face the future with confidence:

1. **God is working in you.**

v. 6a Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...

Goodness and mercy are two sides of the same coin.

Goodness (Grace) means that God gives you **good** that you don't deserve.

Mercy means God withholds the punishment that you deserve.

- **Psalm 23** has much in common with **Romans 8**.

***Romans 8:28** (KJV) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Four principles to help you understand this verse:

- ▶ **Start with God**
- ▶ **See the big picture.**

Define good. How do you define "good"? (Rom 8:29)

- ▶ **Understand the limitations.**

2. **Glory is waiting for you.**

v.6b ... I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

***2 Cor 5:1** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

The temporal and the eternal are contrasted using a tent and a house.

Why are Christians the most confident people when it comes to the future?

***1 Corinthians 5:6-8** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*