

Psalm 23:3

Renewal and Guidance

Image Church // The Good Shepherd Week 3

MPS: God renews us and God leads us for the sake of His glory not ours.

Introduction

Well good morning Image Family, I hope you are doing well!

Watch Parties!

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I am going to read through all of **Psalm 23**, we're going to do that each week because I want it to become ingrained in you...

And then we will look at **verse 3...**

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I have what I need.

2 He lets me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He renews my life;
he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.

Psalm 23:3

3 He renews my life;
he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

There are **2 things** that I want to hold up here...

Renewal and Guidance

Let me talk about **renewal** first... He renews my life... So, **God renews us...**

That word **Renews, restores** as some of your translations say: *literally means to bring back, to return...*

Ok, so what does this look like...

- Salvation...
 - o God created Adam and Eve to fill the earth with worshipers... Sin broke this apart...
 - o God's original intent was worship...
 - o Through Christ the promised deliverer this can be restored...
- Continual renewal is also found in Christ... This is day today renewal through the power of the gospel...
- Some of you are looking to be renewed in the wrong places...
- What you need is the daily hope of the gospel some of you have taken your eyes off of Jesus...
- You need to experience the life changing power found in him

Renewal in your salvation and through your sanctification...

So, we talked about **renewal**, let's talk about **guidance...**

God guides the renewed person **along the right paths**
for his name's sake ...So, **God guides us** *some of your translations say*
God leads us...

Now we love this one! Pretty much everyone wants God's guidance...
We want God to lead us through situations...

We see it all the time... People in a crucial decision and they want
God to show them what to do...

We always want to know what God wants...

- Right job, right house, right career, right financial decision,
right school, right decision for your kids or for retirement...
- *We want to know **what God wants...***

Example:

Friend who played professional baseball.... Gets hurt, wants to know
what God wants...

And to be honest that's a **smart move**...

But here is the problem... Most of the time when we approach God
wanting to know what is best, wanting to know what the right
decision is in a situation...

We approach Him with the desire that He'll show us what will be the
best outcome is for us...

- We want God to help us make the decision that is best for us,
that will be the most benefit to us...

But that's not what this passage shows

he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

God guides us, but He guides us for the purpose of His glory...
Let me say this...

God doesn't care about your glory, in fact God doesn't want you to
have glory...

God is not a means to get what you want or to be in the best position
you can be in...

Example:

Ezekiel 36:22-32

22 "Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord God
says: It is not for your sake that I will act, house of Israel, but for my
holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you went.

23 I will honor the holiness of my great name, which has been
profaned among the nations—the name you have profaned among
them. The nations will know that I am the Lord—this is the
declaration of the Lord God—when I demonstrate my holiness
through you in their sight.

24 " 'For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the
countries, and will bring you into your own land. **25** I will also sprinkle
clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all
your impurities and all your idols. **26** I will give you a new heart and
put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give
you a heart of flesh. **27** I will place my Spirit within you and cause you
to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances. **28** You
will live in the land that I gave your ancestors; you will be my people,
and I will be your God. **29** I will save you from all your uncleanness. I
will summon the grain and make it plentiful, and I will not bring
famine on you. **30** I will also make the fruit of the trees and the
produce of the field plentiful, so that you will no longer experience
reproach among the nations on account of famine.

31 " 'You will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not
good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and
detestable practices. **32** It is not for your sake that I will act—this is
the declaration of the Lord God—let this be known to you. Be
ashamed and humiliated because of your ways, house of Israel!

When God chose **Israel**, He didn't choose them because there was
anything special about them... He chose them as a specific means to
reveal His glory to the world...

- That He would take in and care for and commit to a people that constantly turned their back on Him...

God would use Israel to show the reality of sin... **Through the law...**

- **The law was given to show the sinfulness of man and the holiness of God...**

And in that what becomes evident is the **separation between God and mankind** and that there is nothing that man could do to change that...

But in the midst of that God continues to provide a way... And the way that He does that for the people of Israel and for us is through His promised deliverer... JESUS...

And in this you see the glory of God...

- That the perfect and Holy Creator would provide a way for wicked and sinful people...

When you get that, it demands that you **behold the glory of God** that He didn't leave you to yourself and you sin and separation but that He made a way, a way that cost Jesus His life!

This is an atrocious way to provide a way, and yet it is exactly what God intended to do...

Why?? For the purpose of His glory- that we would believe and behold the goodness of God!

Everything has been and always will be about the glory of God...

So, yes, God guides us, but He guides us in the way that brings Him the most glory! You could say it like this: **God guides us for His glory**
So, what does this mean for you??

Change your perspective...

- When it comes to a decision or a place where you need guidance, you ask: **God lead me in what brings you the most glory...**
- Will this house bring you the most glory? Will this Job bring you the most glory? Which school will have I have the best opportunity to bring you the most glory? In this career which one can I make Jesus' name more famous in?? Etc... Etc...
- We have to change the perspective...

Some of you need to reorient your perspective this morning...

- You are at a crossroads and you don't know what to do...
- You are at a place you didn't want to be in but this is where God has you...
 - What if this isn't about you but about Him and God can do more for his glory through not giving you what you want?
- Some of you have used prayer as an excuse when the answer to your decision can be addressed by asking which one bring God the most glory...
- God is not after your glory, He's after His... Step back and begin to view your life that way...

To live is Christ... Everything is geared toward being about Christ!

Others of you need to reorient you desire... It's about God's glory and not yours... Your desire needs to be for Him and not you.

Conclusion [VAMP]

Where is the Spirit working in your heart this morning...

- Renewal, salvation, renewal in day to day life, guidance for today and for the future...

Pray...