

COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalms: A Summer Sermon Series

Part 5 - "Under the Shepherd's Care"

Psalms 23 | Sunday | July 13th, 2025

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in great pastures.

He leads me besides still waters."

Psalm 23:1-2

~ It can be argued that Psalm 23 is one of the most popular psalms of all. These short verses alone provide Christians with comfort in times of anxiety, it reminds us that even in the valleys of life, God's presence provides peace and security.

3 Needed Reminders to Rightly See Psalm 23 in its Context:

1. All of us have read and quoted the words "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." But what did David have in mind when he penned those words?

2. Let's apply the technique I am referring to is that of context and order. Psalm 23 comes right after Ps. 22 and right before Ps. 24.

"Psalm 22 is the song of the dying Shepherd, crying out to the Father from the cross. Psalm 23 is the song of the risen Shepherd, guiding his sheep through life's dark wilderness. Psalm 24 is the song of the ascended Shepherd who will reward those who have served faithfully."

- James Montgomery Boice

3. In the broader context of the bible, you see that Christ is revealed as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.

- cf. Hebrews 13:20-21

I. The Good Shepherd Promises Personal _____

Psalm 23:1

~ The little word "my" in verse one means this is deeply personal for the author!

"The great I AM of Exodus 3:14, who is not bound by time or space and who not limited in power or knowledge, this one is my Shepherd. He is ours through faith and trust in his perfect work of salvation, and we are his in absolute trust and surrender."

- Danny Akin

II. The Good Shepherd Presents Peaceful _____

Psalm 23:2-3

~ **Psalm 19:7** = "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

~ Consider the terrain as we journey ..

III. The Good Shepherd Offers Protection in Treacherous _____

Psalm 23:4

~ Consider the One who will lead us through that terrain ..

~ Profound Insight from Greg Morse ...

"This is the valley of deep darkness. A valley concealing bandits and predators. A valley where enemies lurk disguised, and fear taunts the imagination – not a scene for coffee cups. But it is in comfort's invasion of even this place that makes the psalm the most beloved throughout history."

"We do not often consider who leads us into the valley. This path of deathly shadows was not self-chosen. The sheep, sheepish as they are, do not walk willingly into unlit places. They aren't a lion to be so careless; dark paths are where sheep die. So how did David end up walking there of all places? His Shepherd led him."

"The Valley We Would Not Choose" (3.26.2020)

IV. The Good Shepherd Dedicates His Perfect _____ to Us

Psalm 23:5-6

~ To properly be taken care of, to be provided for, to be lead into peacefulness, or to be lead into difficult times - You need the presence of a shepherd.