

“TRUSTING GOD IN 2018” – Psalm 23

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*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul;
He leads 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 You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever. (Psalm 23, NKJV)*

David did not write this as a young shepherd boy, but much later in life, maybe during the time of Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 13–19). The biblical image of the shepherd is essential to understanding the character of God and His love toward His people.

God as Israel's _____.
Genesis 48:15; Psalm 28:9; Isaiah 40:11

God's People as _____.
Psalm 78:52-53a; Jeremiah 23:3; Zechariah 9:16

David the Shepherd

- ✓ Right _____ - 1 Samuel 16:7
- ✓ _____ by God - 1 Samuel 16:13
- ✓ Heart of _____ - 1 Samuel 16:18, 23
- ✓ _____ - 1 Samuel 17:34-36
- ✓ _____ God - 1 Samuel 17:37

_____ the Shepherd

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times...” He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. Micah 5:2, 4

Shepherd Psalms: 22, 23, 24. Written by David but ultimately referring to and fulfilled by David’s descendent, the Messiah.

Psalm 22: The _____ Shepherd

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

Psalm 23: The _____ Shepherd

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

Psalm 24: The _____ Shepherd

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 1 Peter 5:4

Bible commentators outline Psalm 23 in a number of different ways. Today we will look at this popular psalm in light of the believer’s call to trust God with everything they are: **spirit, soul** and **body**. (Genesis 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

#1. Looking _____ to God.

Is He _____ Shepherd? (23:1a)
Ephesians 1:13-14a; Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6; Romans 5:5

For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25

Then I will not be in _____ (23:1b).

2 Peter 1:3; Matthew 6:31-33

#2. Letting _____ His Word to transform my life.

He restores my _____ (23:2-4)

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.
Psalm 42:5

- a. He makes me to lie down in _____ pastures
(His _____ → restores my mind)
- b. He leads me beside _____ waters
in paths of righteousness for _____ name’s sake.
(His _____ → restores my will to follow)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2

“But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth” John 10:14-15

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
John 10:27

- c. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they _____ me.* (_____ me → restores my emotions)

#3. Living _____ His purposes in the power of the Holy Spirit.

His _____ and _____ (23:5)

His _____ and _____ (23:6a)

Living for _____ (23:6b)

Psalm 21:4; 28:9; 49:15