

The Shepherd Psalm

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 23.

B. This is a psalm for people who are shaken and in turmoil.

II. God wants us to be independently dependent upon God.

A. If one is not in need, then the Lord is not his Shepherd.

B. If something else shepherds a person, then the Lord is not his Shepherd.

III. Sheep are stupid animals.

A. We have to admit the need of a sheep.

B. When we admit this need, we will not have any want.

IV. The Good Shepherd meets the needs of the inner man.

A. A Good Shepherd knows where to lead His sheep in order to rest and be tranquil because their basic needs are met.

B. As the believer feeds on God and His Word, his inner man is fed. (John 6)

V. The Good Shepherd leads us through life paths.

A. Even when the trail is well worn, sheep still need a shepherd.

B. How to follow the Good Shepherd.

1. One's eyes must be focused on Jesus Christ.

2. We must begin with the truth that we already have.

3. God promises to give us specific wisdom that comes through the peace of God.

VI. The Good Shepherd protects us and disciplines us.

A. The rod and the club are for the enemy without—Satan.

B. We also have an enemy within that the Shepherd must chasten.

C. Despite the danger, we have nothing to fear because God protects us.

V. God as a gracious host supplies all of our needs. We are to pursue God.

Application questions:

1. How are people like sheep?

2. What circumstances in your life have given you comfort in knowing that God is a Good Shepherd? Explain.

3. Which role of the Good Shepherd stood out to you in the message? Why?
