

A PSALM OF PEACE

Psalm 23

Let us learn to turn to the Lord who gives us peace.

I. THE LORD IS OUR SHEPHERD (1-4)

A. THE LORD'S PROVISION (1-2a)

1. A Response to God: He is my Shepherd
 - Confident in this condition
2. The Resources of God: I shall not want
 - Where God guides, He provides
3. The Rest from God: "He makes me to lie down in green pastures" (2a)
 - a. He gives us rest in comfortable surroundings
 - b. He makes us lie down > Giving breaks after busyness - See Mark 6:31-32

B. THE LORD'S PROMPTINGS (2b) "He leads me ..."

1. He goes before me, to show me the way
2. He does not want to leave us in one place but to lead us on to other places and take us further and perhaps beyond our comfort zone
3. We must be willing to be lead, submitting to His directions

C. THE LORD'S PATHS (2c-3)

1. The Path of Refreshment (2c) > "beside the still waters"
2. The Path of Restoration (3a) > "He restores my soul"
3. The Path of Righteousness (3b)
 - a. His regulation: Righteousness
 - b. His reason: "For His name sake"
 - He is a good shepherd and His reputation is at stake

D. THE LORD'S PRESENCE (4) "For You are with me"

1. He Relieves Concern (4a)
 - a. The fear: Walking through the valley of the shadow of death
 - b. The faith: "I will fear no evil"
 - c. The fellowship: "You are with me"
2. He Returns Comfort (4b) "Your rod and Your staff they comfort me"
 - a. His rod disciplines and determines
 - b. His staff defends

Over please >

II. THE LORD IS OUR SUSTAINER (5-6)

A. The ATTENTION of God (5)

1. Enablement: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”
 - a. God gives us food in the midst of my foes
 - b. In difficult times God provides us with necessary nutrition
 - c. Our enemies recognize God’s enablement and see it as a testimony to His grace
 - The enemies haven’t left but they’re not included!
 - d. If God be for us, who can be against us? - Rom.8:31
2. Encouragement: “You anoint my head with oil”
 - God gives us the luxuries of life and not just the necessities
3. Endurance: “My cup runs over”
 - God’s sustenance knows no limits; it goes on and on

B. The ASSURANCE from God (6)

1. Daily Assurance: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me”
 - a. Goodness: God will meet my physical needs > God’s open hand
 - b. Mercy: God will meet my spiritual needs > God’s awesome heart
2. Dwelling Assurance: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”
 - a. Coming home
 - b. Staying close
 - c. Continuing association

CONCLUSION:

When we are troubled let us turn to our peace-providing Shepherd

So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture will give thanks to You forever;
To all generations we will tell of Your praise. - Psalm 79:13

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