

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

*A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"*

~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 36 No. 3

July 2023

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## The Lord is My Shepherd



"The Lord is my Shepherd," so begins what is probably the most famous and well-known Psalm. It has been used at funerals so much that many people who have never picked up a Bible or attended a Church service know these words.

This Psalm tells us of many things that the Lord does for His sheep. It is useful to consider these things, but we also see three things the psalmist says he will do (or not do) because the Lord is his Shepherd. Anyone who claims the Lord as their Shepherd ought to have the same mindset David has in this Psalm.

### "I Shall Not Want"

This is not just optimistic thinking or "mind over matter". There is a real basis for this determination. It is because of what the Lord does as Shepherd that the psalmist can say this.

The Lord makes His sheep lie down in green pastures. That is, He

provides for the needs of His sheep, and they rest in the very source of that provision.

The Lord leads His sheep beside the still waters. That is, He takes them to where they can be refreshed in safety. There is no risk in quenching their thirst. There is calm where the Lord leads.

The Lord leads in the paths of righteousness. That is, He directs His sheep to walk in the way that is good and right. He does so for His Name's sake. His reputation is at stake if His sheep wander from the right paths.

### "I Will Fear No Evil"

David can say this even when walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Our Lord has defeated death in His own resurrection from the dead. Fear of death is a bondage from which our Lord has released us.

"14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that **through death He might destroy him who had the power of death**, that is, the devil, **and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**" **Hebrews 2:14-15 (NKJV)**

But David gives more reasons than this why he can say that he will fear no evil.

The Lord is with His sheep. When we understand that there is nothing in life or death that we must face alone we can have that same confidence. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

"5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, **"I will never leave you nor forsake you."** **Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)**

The rod and staff of the Shepherd is a comfort to His sheep. The Shepherd is able to defend His sheep and rescue them if necessary. He is our shield and defense.

**"You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word." Psalms 119:114 (NKJV)**

"He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; **His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**" **Psalms 91:4 (NKJV)**

The Shepherd takes such good care of the sheep that they can safely eat in the presence of their enemies. They have nothing to fear when the Shepherd is with them. They can eat in peace despite the presence of enemies.

The Shepherd anoints the head of His sheep with oil. The Lord treats us as honored guests at His table.

**"You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My**

feet with fragrant oil.” **Luke 7:46 (NKJV)**

The cup of the Lord's sheep runs over. He doesn't just provide the bare minimum that we need. Instead, He provides more blessings than we can hold. He provides all we need and more.

***“I Will Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever”***

Given all the blessings that the sheep enjoy with such a Shepherd, the psalmist is determined to never leave His house. His reasons for this commitment go beyond what has been already said.

From all that he had previously stated in the Psalm, he rightly concludes that goodness and mercy will follow him all the days of his life. With a Shepherd like this, why would anyone ever want to leave His house? That is where we find goodness and mercy. Outside there is only danger and destruction, want and fear.

We as Christians have the Lord as our Shepherd. He does everything for us that He did for David.

Are we committed like David that:

1. I shall not want?
2. I shall not fear?
3. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever?

I'm glad to have left “want” and “fear” behind when I became one of the Lord's sheep. I don't ever want to go back to that again. The best part is that I never need to go back. I can dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen!!