



- Jesus came to the earth and proclaimed, “*I am the good shepherd.*” Jesus is also referred to as the _____ shepherd, and the _____ shepherd.
- Being the shepherd spoke of _____. The sheep’s present welfare and future destiny was in the hands of the shepherd.
- David knew that being one of the Lord’s sheep meant _____ and complete provision.
- Are you one of Christ’s sheep today? Is He your shepherd? In other words, is He in control of your life? You may ask, “Why should I allow Christ control of **my** life?”

**First, because Christ gave His life _____ you.
John 10:11-15**

- *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” **John 10:11***
- *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:6, 8***

Second, because Christ gives His life _____ you.

- As the good shepherd, He died for us, but as the _____ shepherd, He rose from the dead.
Hebrews 13:20
- When you come to Jesus in faith, you actually receive Christ's resurrection _____ the moment you believe on Him. Romans 8:9-11

Third, because Christ will live His life _____ you.

- Christ gave His life _____ you so that He could give His life _____ you in order that He might live His life _____ you.
- *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* **Galatians 2:20**

**Christ is sufficient in _____ situation.
Philippians 4:12-13**



- Isaiah 53:6 states, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...”*
- *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”* **John 10:11**
- Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross so that we could come into His family and belong to Him and be under His guidance and _____.
- Why should you give to Christ (the Good Shepherd) your total surrender?

First, because the Good Shepherd provides

_____.

- Sheep are very restless animals by nature.
- David says, *“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...”* The picture here is one of the flock lying down in total _____, rest, and tranquility. Why? Because they know they are in the care of the Good Shepherd.
- Did you know Christ desires to give your troubled _____ rest today?

- *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* **John 14:27**
- *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”* **Matthew 11:28-29**
- Will you come to the Good Shepherd and surrender to Him? He desires to give you:
 - Peace _____ God. Romans 5:1
 - The peace _____ God. Philippians 4:6-7

Second, the Good Shepherd provides

- You have a physical body that needs water to survive, but you also have a soul and spirit within you that is _____ and needs spiritual water.
- Satan has a lot of _____ that he convinces people to drink from to try to quench that thirst.
- Did you know that there is a place where you find spiritual water that is clean, refreshing, and will bring you true contentment? John 4:9-14
- Will you turn to Christ today? Allow Christ to satisfy the _____ in your spirit for true living water.



- Jesus declared, *"I am the good shepherd."*
- There is nothing like being in the care of the good shepherd, Jesus Christ.
- In this psalm, David is boasting of the benefits of having the good shepherd in control. This morning, let's look at verse 3 and see two powerful reasons to give Christ control.

First, the good shepherd is there to pick us up when we _____.

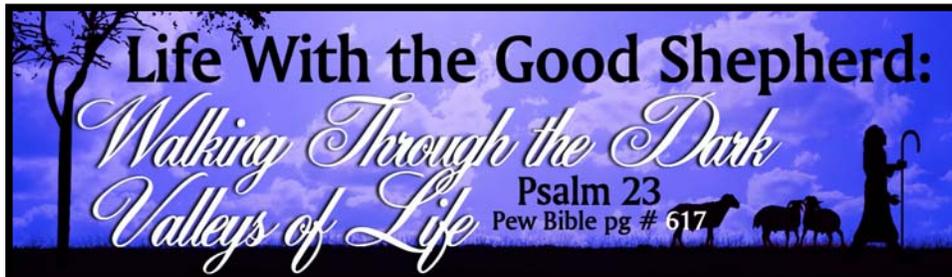
- *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."* **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**
- When we find ourselves cast down, Jesus stands ready to restore.
- Sometimes Christ will work through another brother or sister in Christ to _____ us when we are cast down. Galatians 6:1
- Sometimes Christ will take His _____ and use it to restore our soul.

- Christ loves to take His cast sheep and restore them in soul and heart.

Second, the good shepherd leads us on to _____ heights.

- *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*
John 10:9
- Jesus saves us, then desires to lead us to green pastures where we can _____ and be spiritually healthy.
- *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* **Ephesians 6:17**
- As you yield to Christ and take in and digest God’s Word, the Holy Spirit begins to transform and _____ you, and take you down paths of righteousness that you could have never dreamed of.

Christian, are you a cast sheep today? The good shepherd stands ready to _____. Christian, maybe you are just stagnant on the same old ground. Isn’t it time to allow the good shepherd to lead you to new heights?



- Fear is a terrible emotion. It can literally paralyze you. 1 John 4:18 declares, “Fear hath _____.”
- A person who knows the good shepherd, Jesus Christ, does not have to be overcome with fear when going through any of the valleys of life.
- In the Bible, the phrase “shadow of death” speaks of _____ and oppression.
- But the psalmist declares, “I will fear no evil.” Why? “For thou art with me.”
- The valleys of life need not be dead-end streets.
- If you belong to the good shepherd, you can walk victoriously through the deepest, darkest valleys of life. Why? Because God is with you in two very real ways, which we see depicted in Psalm 23:4.

First, you possess the _____ of God’s Word.

- The rod symbolized the spoken _____ and revealed the will of God. It carried the impact of “Thus saith the Lord.”
- Today, the Scriptures are God’s rod. They are the extension of God’s _____ and will to man. God’s words are powerful, potent, and convicting.

- *“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”*

Jeremiah 23:29

- What did Christ use to counter Satan’s attacks? The rod of God’s Word. Matthew 4:1-11
- When going through dark valleys in this life, I will fear no evil. Why? God is with me through His written Word.

Second, you possess the _____ of God’s Spirit.

- The staff is an instrument used uniquely for the care and management of sheep.
- No other single word can better describe its function on behalf of the flock than that it is for their _____.
- Who in the Bible is identified as the Comforter? The _____. John 14:26
- The staff of God’s Spirit takes the rod of God’s Word and makes it _____ to our hearts and minds.
- As I walk through the dark valleys, He calms me down and brings _____. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

As the Lord’s sheep, we are not exempt from the valleys of life.

As our shepherd, Christ has made provision for our every _____ when walking through the valleys of life.



- What does it mean to belong to the good shepherd, Jesus Christ? Let's look at verse 5-6 and see exactly what it means.

First, it means a table of _____.

- The shepherd would always go ahead and prepare the tableland of pasture for the sheep to graze in.
- Did you know that Christ, our good shepherd, went before us, to prepare a table of _____ for us?
- He entered fully and completely into the life of mankind. He encountered our sorrow and suffering, and then died our _____ on the cross.
- Why? He was preparing the tableland of blessing for us.
- *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."*
Ephesians 1:3

Second, it means an endless supply of _____.

- In the Bible, _____ is a picture of God's Holy Spirit. Hebrews 1:9; cf. Acts 10:38

- When a person trusts Christ to save him, God immediately gives to that person His Holy Spirit to come and dwell _____ of him.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- He is there to fill us with His _____ and strength to face the sometimes aggravating and tormenting circumstances of life.

Third, it means a position of _____.

- If you know Christ as your Savior and you belong to Him, you have a privileged position. You ask, What is my position? You are _____!
- What does this mean? Ephesians 1:3-7

Fourth, it means a _____ that will last forever.

- When you come into Christ's sheepfold, He loves you so much that He is _____ letting you go.
- *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."* **John 10:27-29**

Christ will gladly take you into His sheepfold today. He specializes in taking bruised and battered _____ and restoring them fully and completely.