

## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

This is one of the most beloved passages of the Bible, and yet it contains only 118 words. However, these words go to the very depths of our beings and form a rock foundation to sustain us in hours of difficulty, pain, and trial. Even though the figure of “shepherd and sheep” is not as meaningful to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (21<sup>st</sup> century) city-dwellers as it was to those of David’s time, yet our generation is like a flock in need of a shepherd. This “Shepherd Psalm” is constructive, positive, optimistic, faith-filled, confident and hope-inspired. Note very carefully the following proverbs:

**1. The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want.** All through life men guard their health, save for old age, take out insurance, etc., but here is stated the true source of security. Even before we began to exist, God was aware of our needs and provided for them, as is seen in the seasons of the year, the productivity of the soil, and the resources of the earth itself. Even after this Psalm, David said, “I have been young, and now am I old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (37-35). Note also Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:8, 25-26, 28, 34).

**2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.** Sometimes God makes us to lie down in order that we may have some time to think about things more important than the trivial things of this life. A period of illness or time spent on our backs because of other things, may be God’s way of making us to lie down. In looking up, the heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).

**3. He leadeth me beside still waters.** God does not lead us into dangers, anxieties, and fears, but through His Word, He guides us and leads us, even in the midst of dangers so that we have a peace that passeth all understanding.

**4. He restoreth my soul.** When our souls have been wounded by sin, God is willing and ready to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He lifts us up when we are fainting by the wayside and gives us new hope and courage. David says, literally, “God revives life in me.”

**5. He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.** Man, like sheep, can only see a short distance in front of him. Actually, we are nearsighted and have no real sense of direction. We never need guess what is good and right, for the Lord is our example of righteousness and in following Him we can never go wrong.

**6. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.** The valleys of life (disappointments, serious illness, loneliness, age, death, etc.) are many, but God is with us and as long as we are close to Him, we have no need of fear.

**7. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.** The rod was used for fighting and the staff for rescuing, and God does both for us today. Regardless of the wars, alarms, diseases, tragedies, etc., David says, “goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. . .in the house of the Lord forever.”

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### Goebel Music *from Eastside Edifier*

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## UNREASONABLE MEN

In 2 Thessalonians 3, Paul asks our first century brethren to “pray...that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified...and that we may be delivered from unreasonable men...” Who were they? Evidently that would include some of those first century Christians, for in verse 6, Paul commands them to withdraw from disorderly “brethren” (2 Thess. 3:1-6, but especially v. 2). The word “unreasonable” refers to one’s doing that which is improper or absurd!

Such folks usually operate on feelings not facts! They often resort to twisting something that is said to back up their own position or agenda. At times, when this is directed toward us, the thought might cross our minds that we should just not say anything; that way they would have nothing to twist! How sad it is to live life this way, constantly being afraid that something you might say will be used against you. Whatever happened to that old adage of “giving a person the benefit of the doubt?”

*Vine’s Expository Dictionary of N. T. Words* describes “faction” as that which “denotes ambition, self-seeking, rivalry, self-will, hence it denotes party making.” Ronald Gilbert quotes William Barclay (*Flesh and Spirit—An Examination of Galatians 5:19-23*): “The Corinthian church was split into competing parties within the church; in the Philippian church, preaching had become a means of belittling Paul rather than proclaiming Christ. In Vine’s, the word clearly denotes the spirit of personal ambition and rivalry which issues in a partisanship which *sets a party above the church.*”

Gilbert continues: The “‘party spirit’ centers around men and is promoted by these ambitious, self-seeking, self-willed men...the disciples of Christ showed this spirit in Mark 9:38-40...Here John reminds us a great deal of many today who seem to feel if you are not in their group or party, then they are against you. Much of this ‘party spirit’ seems to center around our schools, brotherhood papers, and lectureship...Many are judged as faithful or not based on the school they support, the paper they write for, and the lectureship they speak on. This ‘party spirit’ within the Lord’s church is doing much damage. The devil must be enjoying all the bickering and factions that are taking place today with the church.”

When actions and words are based on emotion instead of facts, the “party spirit” easily develops. When appealed to consider the church, those of the party spirit ridicule the idea, because in their misconception, they are the aggrieved party. All others are to blame for their predicament; parties form and the church suffers because of it. Emotion rules the day!

One person remarked, with obvious irony: “It is so good that we have evangelized the world, so we can now turn our attention to infighting among the brethren.” All of us must be very careful not to fall into this trap ourselves. It is so easy to do!

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**Wayne Price** *from McCloud Messenger*

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## **ANNIVERSARY**

George and Linda Thomas, 09-14.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Verna Hanson, 09-09; Jared Nelson, 09-15.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** John Cody Carter (AM). **Wednesday:** Lindsey Brown, Millie Robertson.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

John and Barbara James are at Clinton Lake this weekend. The Nelson's are in Newton, KS this weekend for a wedding. George Thomas was in Northeast Missouri on business on Wednesday night. Melissa Cole was in Osage City last Sunday night. Sarah Marcum and Leah Thrasher were at the Lake of the Ozarks last weekend.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, September 9 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **MID-WEST LECTURES**

The *25th Annual Mid-West Lectures* will be held September 16-20 at 39th Street in Independence, MO. See the flyer in the foyer for details. If you can provide a dessert for Tuesday please sign the list in the foyer.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 60; Sunday PM, 40; Wednesday PM, 35.

## **Those To Serve**

September 9, 2007

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Chris Edwards**  
**PRESIDE..... Steve Brown**  
**ASSIST..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Cody Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Steve Brown**

### **WEDNESDAY 12th**

**SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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