

Psalms 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; FAITH I shall not want.
 ASSURANCE
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: CONTENTMENT he leadeth me beside the still waters. PEACE
- 3 He restoreth my soul: **LIFE** he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **LEADERSHIP**
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **CONFIDENCE**

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Psalms 23

4 ... I will fear no evil: COURAGE.

for thou art with me; **COMPANIONSHIP** thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. **COMFORT**

- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: **PROVIDENCE** thou anointest my head with oil; **FAVOR** my cup runneth over. **JOY**
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: **MERCY** and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. **IMMORTALITY**

Companionship – "For thou art with me"

How can we have Him as our companion?

- We must come to where God is. 1 Timothy 6:15-16
- We must come to walk where He dwells. 1 John 1:5-7
- We must keep His commandments. 1 John 2:3-5; 3:24; James 4:8
- cf. 2 Chronicles 15:2, "... Jehovah is with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; <u>but</u> if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."
 NOTE: Deuteronomy 1:41-42

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Companionship – "For thou art with me"

How can we have Him as our companion? Matthew 28:20

- God is our faithful companion. **Hebrews 13:5-6**
- Cast your burden on Him. Psalms 55:22 (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- Note: Isaiah 43:1-2; Isaiah 9:2; Job 38:16-18
- Must be careful not to go beyond God's word or encourage those who do. cf. Deuteronomy 1:41ff, "for I am not among you."
- **2 John 9-10**, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, <u>hath not God</u>: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into (your) house, and give him no greeting."

<u>Comfort</u> – "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

- God would use His rod to punish His enemies.
 Psalms 9:16; Proverbs 13:24; Isaiah 10:5ff
 "The rod and correction give wisdom" (Proverbs. 29:15)
- The rod guides those who have gone astray back into the right path. Psalms 89:30, 32
- His staff leads to a place of comfort for His followers.
 cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
 Revelation 14:13

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