

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

I Am Fully Covered for the Lord Is In Front of and Behind Me

Psalm 23

23 ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

INTRODUCTION

Twenty-first century life is uncertain. There was a time when U.S Government employment was the most secure job on the planet, but not any longer. Today many of our federal workers could end up standing in food line across our nation. Why, who or what cause this is not the subject of today's message from the pulpit. Rather, we are focused this morning on **Whom** should we be looking to in times of trouble. Churches and school have always been taken for granted as the safest possible places for our children and our families. Almost nobody locked their doors. My grandmother lost her door key before I was born and she never had it replaced throughout the 16 years I spent in her wood home in rural Florida. But today, sophisticated alarm systems, doorbell video cameras, fenced dogs, barred windows and doors have become the necessary norm, rendering our dwellings more like a prison than a home. So much uncertainty creates anxiety and stresses us to our limits. Hospital and medical facilities are deluged with people suffering panic attacks from societal tension. People feel alone exposed with nothing covering them. But there *is* a covering anyone can rely on. David writes about it in Psalm 23. Let us examine **Verses 1 and 2** printed above.

COVERED

Christians walk by Faith and not by sight in the Favor of the Lord. God leads and direct us to our 'green pastures' financial blessings today and yesterday. With Him there will be no storms but a peacefully journey.

Consider now, **Verse 3**:

We are assured that the Joy of the Lord will keep restoring us, building us up. The very thought of this promise makes one want to dance like David danced and shout out "The Lord Is Good, His Mercy Endures Forever And Ever".

Then in **Verse 4** we learn that:

Although we might be walking through a valley of trials and tears just now, we need have no fear of evil. For this we must know: the Lord is **always** with us. He has equipped us sufficiently with the weapons necessary to combat and overcome spiritual warfare: fervent prayer, the sword of truth, the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith and the breastplate of righteousness. Even our feet are covered with the protection of the Gospel. Be comforted: He is in front of and behind you.

The 5th Verse wraps us in the promise of His limitless abundance:

He will most assuredly cover us and make a way for us. Every hater, every negative word spoken about us, every doubt shall be put down. The Lord has anointed us with His favor and His blessings are running over. Hallelujah

WHAT IS THERE LEFT TO SAY?

In the 6th Verse comes the expression of perfect trust in the outcomes of the Lord:

The Lord Is In Front of and Behind Me

The covering of the Lord is a covering upon which we can always depend. It will never fail, as it has never failed. It will never shutdown, for it never has. It will never stop working because it has always worked. This world system and its nations will eventually fail, in time it will shutdown, at some future point it will cease to function, will come to a end and be replaced by something else we have yet to imagine. For that is the immutable testimony of history since time immemorial. But the Blood Of The Lamb that covered the doorposts of ancient Israel in Egypt did not fail, nor will it ever fail. For the Blood of the Lamb is also immutable. It has been reliably covering and working for over 6,000 years. It **will not** let you down.

The Lord is in front of us and behind us. He has never stopped working and never shall!

Apostle Verbert C. Anderson

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