



Sunday, December 24, 2017

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

“The LORD is my Shepherd”

Q: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “The LORD is my Shepherd?”

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the LORD, He *it is* that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

So far we have noted that our LORD is **Eternal** (Revelation 1:8); He is our **Creator** (Genesis 1:1); He is **all-knowing** (Psalm 147:4-5); He is **everywhere present** (Psalm 139:7-10); and He is **all-powerful** (Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26).

We also noted that He is our **God of peace** (Isaiah 26:3); He is our **God of strength** (Isaiah 26:4); He is our **transcendent** God (Isaiah 55:8-9); He is our **immutable** or unchanging God (Malachi 3:6); and He is **righteous** in all He does (Psalm 11:7).

He is our **faithful** God (1 Thessalonians 5:24, Lamentations 3:23); He is our **all-sufficient** God (Lamentations 3:24); He is our God of **Comfort** (John 14:16); He is our **Jehovah-Jireh**, our great **Provider** (Genesis 22:12-14; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:24-25).

He is our God **who cannot lie** (Titus 1:2); He is the only **True** God (Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3); He is our God of **truth** (Deuteronomy 32:4); He is **God alone** (Psalm 86:10); He is our **Good** God (Psalm 100:5).

I. I shall dwell with *contentment* because of the Lord's *provision* (v.1-3)

Summary: "The LORD is my Shepherd", therefore I shall dwell with *contentment* because of His faithful *provision* of *rest, refreshment, restoration* and *righteousness*.

II. I shall dwell with *courage* because of the Lord's *presence* (v. 4-5)

Summary: "The LORD is my Shepherd", therefore I shall dwell with *courage* because of His presence there is both *protection* and *provision* for my peace.

III. I shall dwell with _____ because of the Lord's *promises* (v. 6)

A. Of _____ blessing in this relationship (v. 6a)

This word "*surely*" is an emphatic statement of _____. It is spoken as an indisputable fact.

1. His blessings _____ to me

Romans 5:8 But **God** commendeth **His** love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us.

John 10:11 I am the **Good Shepherd**: the **Good Shepherd** giveth **His** life for the sheep.

2. His blessings _____ me

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment [*perfume*] of the apothecary [*perfumer*] to send forth a stinking savour: ...

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

B. Of _____ blessing in this relationship (v. 6b)

Psalm 27:4 One thing have I desired of the **Lord**, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the **Lord** all the days of my life.

Q: **What is my impact** on the world around me?

Q: What does the testimony of **my life** say about **my Shepherd’s care**?

- Do people see *contentment, courage* and *confidence* of a sheep resting in the provision, presence and promises of their great Shepherd?
- Do people see *discontentment, dread* and *doubt* of a sheep who doesn’t seem to know His Shepherd’s loving, tender care?

Q: Does **my life draw** others to Christ **or drive** them from Him?

Cf. Psalm 84:4; Psalm 145:1-2

Summary (v. 6): “*The LORD is my Shepherd*”, therefore I shall dwell with **confidence** because of His promises of *earthly* and *eternal* blessings in this relationship.

Psalm 23 Summary: “*The LORD is my Shepherd*”, therefore I shall dwell with **contentment** because of His *provision*, **courage** because of His *presence*, and **confidence** because of His *promises*.

Jude 24-25 Now unto **Him** that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of **His** glory with exceeding joy, **25** To the only wise **God** our **Saviour**, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: to Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!