

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 23:1-6.**
- B. A youngster, when asked to recite the 23rd Psalm, began this way, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."
- C. At first, that sounds humorous, but it is also very true. When it comes to life, we must realize that X is the answer. He should be all that we want.

I. JESUS IS ALL I WANT... **IN MY PHYSICAL LIFE (Psa. 23:2a).**

- A. "He makes me to lie down in green pastures."
- B. The Psalmist says; that the good shepherd will make the sheep *lie down in green pastures*. The good shepherd will physically take care of the sheep.
- C. Jesus has made provision, and will continue to make provision for us in the physical things. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus tells us not to worry about the necessities of life because God knows that we need them and even takes care of the smallest of birds (Mt. 6:25-34).

II. JESUS IS ALL I WANT... **IN MY EMOTIONAL LIFE (Psa. 23:2b).**

- A. "He leads me beside quiet waters."
- B. Our present society seems to be running at a faster and faster pace. W/technology doing so many things for us, and at rapid speed, we tend to be able to do more things in a day.
 - 1. Dishwasher--clean up faster.
 - 2. Cars--drive us faster.
 - 3. Microwave ovens--cook faster.
 - 4. Fast food--means we eat faster.
 - 5. Computers--think faster.
 - 6. Lottery--get richer faster.
 - 7. Gambling--get poorer faster.
- C. Yet, while we do things faster and faster we also have more guilt, fear, worry, neurosis, withdrawal, and disease. We need some *still waters*.
- D. Oh, for some time to catch your breath, and slow down. Ghandi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." Emotionally, we need time and quiet time in our own little space. The good shepherd (Jesus) provides that for us (Phil. 4:7).

III. JESUS IS ALL I WANT... **IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE (Psa. 23:3a).**

- A. "He restores my soul;"
- B. God's great mission in Jesus is to reconcile man back to Himself. God sent X to fulfill this mission and Jesus was obedient unto death.
- C. Man's needs are 3-fold (physical, emotional, and spiritual).
- D. Men/women need to worship something or someone they deem greater than themselves. Worship restores the soul.
- E. By worshipping regularly, prayer, and daily living we can have our soul restored, refreshed, and renewed. Our spiritual life can be a good one!

IV. JESUS IS ALL I WANT... **IN MY MORAL LIFE (Psa. 23:3b).**

- A. "He guides me in the paths of righteousness"
- B. The "paths of righteousness" are not easily discerned by those in the world who have rejected God's word/Son. Therefore, the values/standard of right and wrong will vacillate.
- C. According to God, however, there is an unchanging standard of right and wrong--a system of values that we can bank our lives on.
- D. The Psalmist says, "He leads me..." There is a way that is right and Jesus lead men in that way (Mt. 7:13-14; Prov. 14:12).

- E. One very simple, but powerful way to answer the moral questions of life is to apply 1Cor. 10:31. Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

V. **JESUS IS ALL I WANT... IN MY CRISIS LIFE (Psa. 23:4).**

- A. "In the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil."
- B. This is a scary place. When a crisis is upon us, we need help in the worst way. Yet, even here, Jesus is all I want!
- C. Because He is the way, the truth, and the life, when the crises of life is upon us, we can stand strong and weather to storm (Jn. 14:6).

VI. **JESUS IS ALL I WANT... IN MY SOCIAL LIFE (Psa. 23:5).**

- A. "Thou prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."
- B. One thing becoming harder and harder for the Xian to have a clean social life outside of the church. The world, it seems, cannot have a good time, without sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.
- C. But even the presence of our enemies we can have our "head anointed with oil." Paul gives some insight on how brethren are to live in an un-Xian world (Phil. 1:21, 27-28).
- D. Fellowship activities of the church are important in filling the social needs of Xians.

VII. **JESUS IS ALL I WANT... IN MY ETERNAL LIFE (Psa. 23:6).**

- A. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord, forever."
- B. While the descriptions of heaven are not literal, John tells us that heaven will be a place where all of our needs will be met, and met for eternity.
- C. John speaks in Rev. 21, 22 of perfect provision, protection, and fellowship in heaven. Heaven is a prepared place that is so great and fabulous that it defies earthly explanations.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all that I want."
- B. This is true in the:
 - 1. Physical life.
 - 2. Emotional life.
 - 3. Spiritual life.
 - 4. Moral life.
 - 5. Social life.
 - 6. Crisis life.
 - 7. Eternal life.
- C. Is Jesus to Lord of your life?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.