



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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My Shepherd!

Scripture: Psalm 23

In the Bible, the term “shepherd” refers to a leader or caretaker who guides and protects a flock of sheep. The word “shepherd” also indicates a spiritual overseer is familiar to Bible readers. We still use the term “pastor,” literally, “a shepherd.” Moreover, it is a metaphor used to describe the role of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd who lovingly cares for and leads His followers.

The Good Shepherd, who dies for the sheep; at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion Mark states, *“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* (Mark 15:34). However, Jesus said in John 10:11, *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”*

One of the most beautiful analogies in Scripture is that of the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. The shepherd’s gentle care for and oversight of his sheep often appears in Scripture to depict the kind of relationship that exists between the Lord and His people. *“All we like sheep have gone astray”* (Isaiah 53:6), but Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, has come to His people with great care—to find them, to gather them, to love them.

The Great Shepherd, who perfects the sheep—Hebrews 13:20-21, *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever.”* Amen. These verses (Heb. 13:20-21) include two significant results of Christ’s work. God **works** in the people of God to produce the kind of person that would please Him, and he **equips** the people of God to do the kind of work that would please Him. **Let God change you, then use you.**

Jesus is “the great Shepherd,” who does not lose any of the sheep that the Father has given to Him. He said in John 10:28-30, *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”*

What comforting notes the psalmist rings in this intensely personal Psalm 23! It emphasizes the Shepherd’s gracious provision with detail and brings great hope to the heart of the reader. **The emphasis is on the giver rather than on the gifts; the provider is greater than the provision.** Because of the greatness of the Good Shepherd, (we) “sheep” are safe and satisfied in His sheepfold (in His arms). This psalm depicts the kind of relationship that exists between the Lord and His people.

God knows what is required to nourish the soul of a person, which we discover through the reading and study of His Word, through prayer, through spiritual leadership, and through developing in spiritual disciplines. The Scripture makes it clear that people are much like sheep and therefore need careful attention and guidance. The Shepherd leads us along spiritual paths that are best for us individually. He knows the perfect combination of experiences, blessings, and tests that every person needs. In His omniscient wisdom the Lord will provide whatever that person needs.

The Chief Shepherd, who will come for the sheep. The chief Shepherd is Jesus Christ – Second Coming, when he will judge all people. God not only provides for His people while on this earth but also has prepared a home for them so that they may dwell with Him eternally. Jesus tells us, *“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:3). We must obey our Good Shepherd and follow His leading with trust, for He knows what is best for us. First Peter 5:4 tells us, *“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”*

**May you be blessed with these encouraging words,
“My Shepherd!” is a personal statement that each individual
must make on their own.**