“The Lord Is My Shepherd”
Psalm 23

Introduction:
A. This great psalm has comforted the dying and the bereaved for centuries.
B. Jehovah was David’s shepherd, Jesus is the Christian’s shepherd (John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4)
C. The theme of the psalm is in verse 1
D. If we will let the Lord be our Shepherd, there are certain needs for which we will not want.

Discussion
I. Provisions (v. 2, 5)
A. The faithful Christian is promised life’s necessities (Matt. 6:33; Psa. 37:25).
   1. Not everything we might desire (health and wealth gospel).
   2. But, everything we need in abundance (cup runs over)
B. The faithful Christian is content with these (1 Tim. 6:8)
C. This promise is not to the lazy, nor the unfaithful.

II. Leadership (vv. 2, 3)
A. Jesus is our supreme leader – the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
   1. The best of earthly leaders have faults.
   2. His leadership takes precedence over all other.
B. The instrument of His leadership is His word. (Psa. 119:105)
   1. Christ abides in us when his word abides in us – (John 15:5-7 – Compare v.5 with v.7)
   2. God leads us in the paths of righteousness by His word. (Psa. 119:172)

III. Security (v. 4)
A. One can feel secure – without fear – when the Lord is with him.
B. The faithful Christ has no reason to fear.
   1. Because he that promises is faithful. (Heb. 10:23).
   2. He has promised not to forsake or leave us (Heb. 13:5)
   3. He has promised to be with us even through death (Rom. 8:37-39)
C. Those not faithful to Christ have every reason to fear (Heb. 10:34-38; Rev. 21:8)

IV. Comfort (v. 4)
A. The “rod” was used to count the sheep (Lev. 27:32)
   1. What a comfort to be numbered among his sheep?
   2. What a comfort to be recognized as one of His? (Cf. 1 John 3:1)
B. The “staff” was used to protect the sheep from prey.
C. The words of Scripture are a comfort in the worst of times (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

V. Mercy (v. 6a)
A. Without mercy there would be no security or comfort.
B. The Lord is not looking for an excuse to punish his sheep – is merciful.
   1. Without his mercy we would be forever lost (Titus 3:5)
   2. We begotten by his mercy – when we obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:3; 22, 23)
   3. He will have no mercy on those who reject Christ (Heb. 10:26-29).

VI. Heaven (v. 6b)
A. Goodness and mercy for life – then after life is over forever in the Lord’s house (cf. 1 Thess. 4:17)
B. A dwelling place prepared for the faithful (John 14:2-6)
C. An inheritance reserved in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4)

Conclusion:
A. The Lord will be our shepherd, only if we let him.
B. Won’t you respond to his mercy by obeying the gospel?