

## The Superintendent's Bible Study

Dear friends,

In addition to the weekly devotional, intended for our usual Sunday worship time, I thought it might be helpful to offer a guided bible study to be read during the week. This week I would like us to look together at Psalm 23 probably the most well known and well loved of all the psalms. I recently read the following quote from Corrie Ten Boom, that wonderful Christian lady who survived the horrors of the Ravensbruck concentration camp, "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest." What timely words for these days that we are living in. With that in mind I would like us to look at the beautiful picture of Jesus presented to us in Psalm 23. At this time it is so important that we look to Jesus. He is to be our focus.

Psalm 23 is one of a number of Messianic Psalms, that gives us a wonderful picture of Jesus, but was written hundreds of years before He was born.

V1 "The Lord is my shepherd" Does this remind you of anything Jesus said? Read John ch 10 v11-14.

What does the picture of the shepherd tell us about God's care for us?  
God cares, leads, provides and protects.

"Green pastures" read John 10 v9. What does this tell us about God's provision?  
His provision is abundant, more than enough.

V4 "Shadow of death" Read John 11 v25-26. What does this tell us about death?  
Jesus has defeated death, he has triumphed over it, so will we.

V5 "You prepare a feast before me" Read Luke 14 v 12-24. What do you think of when you hear the word feast?

The provision of God is not just enough, or even abundant, it is lavish, a lavish banquet is provided for us.

"You anoint my head with oil" Read John 7 v 37-39. What does living water convey to you. Both oil and water are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Oil especially is a symbol of gladness, and water is refreshing and life giving.

V6 "I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever" Read John 14 v 1-3 What is the idea of "house" meant to convey to us?

Family, security, love and joy. This should thrill our hearts. What a wonderful future we have. Let us take a moment to lift our eyes above our present troubles and look to Jesus.

God Bless You All

Stephen

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