

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

February 27th

THE LORDSHIP OF LOVE

[part 1 of 3]

* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). The word “Lord” here is “Jehovah,” and it is a word of three tenses. It represents the love of three tenses. Psalm 23 is a love song. It is faith’s love song. This particular verse, and the analogy of a sheep and its shepherd, shows the quiet confidence of long associations. It shows a raptness and simplicity of faith that is thrilling.

“The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1). He is my shepherd indeed. He is my lover, my caretaker, and my protector. The very word shepherd suggests protection and care. Is He your shepherd?

“I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). I shall not want for any good thing. I shall not want for food; I shall not want for raiment; I shall not want for shelter; I shall not want for health, for He is the strength of my life.

“He maketh me to lie down” (Psalm 23:2). That is quietness, security, and rest. If there were enemies, I could not lie down; I would have to stand on guard, but He is my protection now. My Shepherd Lord shields me from the enemy.

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures” (Psalm 23:2). Here is the causative power of love. The picture is vivid; the clover is up to the knees. Its luscious beauty charms the eye and satisfies the hungry sheep that feed.

“He leadeth me beside the still waters” (Psalm 23:2). He leads me beside gentle waters; clear, rippling waters; the waters of stillness and quietness. How the heart needs quietness in these troubled days. Every anxiety and care has been cast upon Him. We are as free as children. By the side of the stream we rest in security.

“He restoreth my soul” (Psalm 23:3). This is the picture of one who has become filled with anxiety and fear until he is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He restores the troubled, restless, unhappy mind to normal condition. This is one of the most beautiful facts connected to this divine care.

When you know that He cares for you and you have every anxiety upon Him, then you will be fresh and happy to do your work. But those burdened with anxiety cannot do much. The Father intended that we would trust Him in utter abandonment. Love is trust and fearlessness.