

GW The Good Shepherd

If Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are sheep, then by definition he must lead and we follow. Most of us know that sheep wander off, and that says something about us, doesn't it? We are naturally curious, independent, and self-reliant, and have a pre-disposition to stray off the beaten path. And that can quickly spell trouble. Some of you still feel the sting of going your own way. Let's honor that Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, by giving him our lives in surrender, shall we? While in the flesh, he ran perfectly the race set before us. He is totally trustworthy, and has our best interests at heart. Let's honor him now by giving up control and letting him take over.

Come Thou Fount

Psalm 23 reminds us of the safety we have when we stay in the fold, and as faithful sheep let the shepherd be the source of our comfort and safety.

Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.*

Praise To The Lord

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

PRAYER

O God of my delight, your throne of grace is the pleasure ground of my soul. Here I obtain mercy in time of need, here I see the smile of your reconciled face, here joy pleads the name of Jesus, here I sharpen the sword of the Spirit, anoint the shield of faith, put on the helmet of salvation....Help me to come to Christ as the fountainhead of descending blessings, as a wide open floodgate of mercy.

O Thou In Whose Presence

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

PRAYER

You have brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths but see you in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold your glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Let me find thy light in my darkness, and your life in my death, that every good work or thought found in me thy joy in my sorrow, your grace in my sin, your riches in my poverty and your glory in my valley.

Be Still My Soul

*Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

PRAYER

O Lord, Whose power is infinite and wisdom infallible, order things that they may neither hinder, nor discourage me, nor prove obstacles to the progress of your cause. Stand between me and all strife, that no evil befall me, no sin corrupt my gifts, my zeal and attainments. May I follow duty and not any foolish device of my own. Permit me not to labour at work which you will not bless, that I may serve you without disgrace or debt. Let me dwell in your most secret place under your shadow, where is safe impenetrable protection from the arrow that flies by day, the pestilence that walks in darkness, the strife of tongues, the malice of ill-will, the hurt of unkind talk, the snares of company, the perils of youth, the temptations of middle life, the grumbling of old age, the fear of death. I am entirely dependent upon you for support, counsel, consolation. Uphold me by your Spirit, and may I not think it enough to be preserved from falling, but may I always go forward, always abounding in the work you give me to do.

Strengthen me by Thy Spirit in my inner self for every purpose of my Christian life. I give you my name, my body, soul, talents, character, my success, wife, children, friends, work, my present, my future, my end. Take them, they are yours, and I am yours, now and forever.

Now And Forever

OFFERING

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

SERMON

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Benediction

*May the God of peace,
who through the blood of the eternal covenant
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep,
equip you with everything good for doing his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hebrews 13:20-21