



An undenominational publication devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles and dedicated to those who ask, seek and knock so they will receive and find and the door opened for them.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”
(Psalm 23:1)

One thing I have learned is that we are not good shepherds for ourselves. Selfish and sinful, we make a mess of our own lives and of lives around us when we rely on our own understanding to guide us (Proverbs 3:5-6). We need to be shepherded—but by whom?

Family and friends love us, but their shepherding is flawed as we are all sinful (Romans 3:23). So, whose shepherding is perfect?

Should we, in this flawed world, turn to local, state, and national governments for shepherding? In America we actually get to choose who we would like to shepherd us by guessing who will best lead, feed, protect, and care for us. How good it is that God is in that process (Romans 13:1-7), and yet, God allows the shepherds to choose how they shepherd.

There were some bad shepherds over His people in the Old Testament (Ezekiel 34). They selfishly and sinfully “fed” on His spiritual sheep while neglecting their duties to them. God promised to remove those leaders and to replace them by becoming Himself their true Shepherd. This was fulfilled when God became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:1-18). Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:13). In every way Jesus sees to the needs of those who live within His sheepfold, who listen to His voice and follow Him (John 10:1-18).

About a thousand years before the Good Shepherd came, David wrote *“The Lord is my shepherd”*. God is the personal shepherd for each of us. He leaves the ninety-nine to find the one lamb which has gone astray. He takes care of His sheep perfectly. With Him, we are never in want.

— Doug Kashorek Minister
Church of Christ
editor of sermonlines.com
Plattsburg, New York

HE LEADS BESIDE STILL WATERS

“He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”

Psalm 23:2

It has been said that Psalm 23:2 “is the most complete picture of happiness that ever was or can be drawn.” The author of this psalm, King David, was reared as a shepherd. He learned that sheep trust in the provisions and protections provided by shepherds. It was natural that sheep follow one who takes care of them. David spoke of God leading His people to green pastures, and beside calm and mirrored waters; of sheep which received food to eat, protection from predators and refreshing quiet rest.

GREEN PASTURES. Perhaps the psalmist had in mind the abundant green pastures such as irrigated grasslands and mowed fields. Perhaps, however, David referred to the sprigs of grass that come to life early in the morning as a result of dew and condensation. In much of Palestine water is scarce. Parts of the wilderness receive only 24 inches of rain in a year. Clumps of wild grass are scattered here and there to feed the flocks until each receives its fill then rests with contentment. Spiritually, like sheep, we follow the “Chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:3), confident that He will lead us from sprig to sprig until our spiritual hunger is satisfied, our needs provided. We rest in peace and joy that is blessed. We are filled with contentment. It’s not always a lot of grass; sometimes it’s just little sprigs. We take a bite then walk a little farther and take another bite. The shepherd leads the way. There’s enough for today. Tomorrow, He will lead to other pastures. There is always enough to meet our daily spiritual needs.

STILL WATERS Sheep are frightened by waters that cascade off mountain peaks or high hills. They do not like loud noises of rapidly running waters. They want to lie down beside waters that are “still” and “quiet”. In the hassle of stress and conflict, pressure to meet the expectations of others and financial instability we need quiet times when our souls can be refreshed. Jesus is the source of “living water” that refreshes. He invites us to come to drink of the water that He gives -- the water that endures to eternal life (John 4:14). You will find the quiet waters by reading the scriptures, pouring out your heart in prayer and counting your blessings. When you stay close to the “Chief Shepherd” He will take care of you all the way (1 Peter 5:4).



— David Tarbet, Outreach Minister
Church of Christ
New Milford, Connecticut

IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name’s sake.”*

Psalm 23:3

All human beings need a Shepherd. We were never intended to live on his own terms, apart from God. We need God’s help and guidance. We have neither the ability nor the right to determine absolute morality for ourselves. *“I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). God alone has the wisdom and authority to determine true righteousness. If we follow our Shepherd He will lead us in paths of righteousness.



In Bible times travel was primarily by foot and the path made the difference between a pleasant trip and a difficult one. God’s way is smooth, clear, level, and straight. The way of sin is rough, crooked, and strewn with obstacles! The *Proverbs of Solomon* contrasts two ways. It teaches us to desire the path of righteousness.

“Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life will be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in uprightness. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. . . . Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil.

“Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. . . . But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.” (Proverbs 4:10-12, 14-15, 18).

With the coming of Jesus the paths of righteousness became even clearer. Jesus taught true righteousness and modeled it. Because He laid down His life for the sheep we should be drawn to love to this Shepherd. *“My sheep hear my voice* (i.e., learn and accept my teachings), *and I know them, and they follow me* (i.e., obey and imitate me)” (John 10:27). We need this Shepherd.

— Tim Reeves,
Church of Christ
Bangor, Maine

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

“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.”

Psalm 23:4

Sheep are not particularly fast, intelligent, or well-camouflaged, which makes them particularly vulnerable to predators. It would be frightening to know about things out there that want to prey on you, that are currently stalking you, and things that you cannot evade without help. Many of us know that feeling, even though we are far more intelligent than sheep.



We have felt the fear that comes from disease, relationship conflicts, job loss, children in trouble, and the death of people we love. It’s when we lose control and our sense of self-sufficiency that we remember what it is to be afraid. That’s when we reach out to those who have more strength, more experience, or more connections to the things we believe would save us.

In verse 4 of David’s famous Psalm 23, he writes, *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me....”* In the preceding verses, he has already taken on the role of a sheep while speaking of God as his shepherd. David, you might think, had little reason to be afraid. He was king in command of a mighty army, after all. As a younger man, he had gone to battle with a giant (Goliath) and won. He himself was a shepherd in his adolescence and knew how to protect the flock from danger. And yet he found his strength not in himself but in God.

There were things even the King of Israel could not control, and David was humble enough to admit that and to put his faith in the One who has power over evil and death. For us, that One is Jesus. In John 10:11 Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*

No matter what we fear, even evil itself cannot claim us as its own as long as we lovingly submit to this Good Shepherd who is always protecting, always guiding, always feeding, and always comforting.

— Patrick Barber, Pulpit Minister
Church of Christ
Manchester, Connecticut

MY CUP OVERFLOWS

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

Psalm 23:5

The 23rd Psalm offers a beautiful image of what it’s like when the Lord leads and guides our lives. He is our Great Shepherd and our compassionate leader. He fulfills every need and the deepest desires of our hearts. He brings us through darkness and times of trial. He is ever with us. All of these tremendous blessings could be summed up by the phrase “My cup overflows.”

The picture painted here is one of God as a great and gracious host. The blessings discovered at His table in His presence are so abundant that not even our worst enemies can get in the way of our receiving His good gifts. The joy of knowing and loving God is a precious treasure. For the Psalmist, it is like a cup that is never empty. It runs over and spills out to bless others. The Creator of all things is an endless fountain of infinite happiness for those who dwell with Him and follow His will. We can hardly grasp or comprehend all the goodness that is offered to us by God!

While we may experience times of darkness and pain, the blessing of knowing Jesus is perpetually a life-giving source of comfort. That cup never runs dry. Jesus never fails to satisfy. As Jesus says in John 4:14, “...*Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*” In Jesus, God’s gift of overflowing spiritual blessings is offered to all.

Those who seek Jesus and follow His will can surely echo the words of David: “*My cup overflows!*”

— Andy Baumberger, Minister
Cape Cod Church of Christ
Marstons Mills, Massachusetts

IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

(Psalm 23:6)

Sometimes life is hard. We face relationship problems, anxiety about world events, feelings of inferiority, fear about the future and more. It is easy to feel like you do not belong, to feel like you are always the odd-man-out. But this does not have to be so. At the very end of Psalm 23, the writer speaks of dwelling in the Lord’s house forever.

The statement is fascinating and reassuring because it includes a promise and indicates a personal responsibility.

The promise is that there will always be a home for God’s children! His house is not one which will pass away or in which we will outstay our welcome. Ephesians 1: 5-14 says that in Christ we are adopted as the children of God. God’s Holy Spirit is a guarantee of our eternal inheritance. Our inheritance is kept in heaven and is “imperishable, undefiled and unfading” (1 Peter 1:3-4). When God makes a promise, we can be sure He will keep His promise!

The book of Revelation tells us of the joys of heaven where God “will wipe away every tear and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain” (Revelation 21:1-4).

The responsibility aspect is this: we can choose whether we live in that home or not. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. A person who chooses not to obediently abide in God’s love is much like a rebellious teenager who runs away from home; the home does not leave, the teen does. Through obedient faith we can choose to follow the one true Shepherd and claim the promise of living “in house of the Lord forever.”

— David Rollert, Minister
Church of Christ
Tilton, New Hampshire

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

SENDING 'CHRIST FOR TODAY' INTO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

CONNECTICUT

FARMINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

69 South Road. Tel: 860-677-1463
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Tom Beyer, Minister
Web: southroadchurch.com



NEW YORK

NORTH BRONX CHURCH OF CHRIST

563 E. Tremont Ave (2 floor), Tel: 347-658-6186
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class and Worship)
Paul Oppong, Minister
Web: nbchurchofchrist.net



NEW MILFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

129 Litchfield Road (Route 202),
Tim Tarbet, David Tarbet, Ministers
Tel: 860-355-0489
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class), 11:00 AM (Worship)
Web: nmchurchofchrist.org



DUTCHESS COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

43 Vassar Rd., Poughkeepsie, Tel: 845-214-0811
Ron Ward & Scott Genco, Leaders
Sun: 10:00 AM (Worship), 11:30 (Class)
Facebook: Dutchess County Church of Christ



MAINE

KITTERY CHURCH OF CHRIST

48 Love Lane. Tel: 207-439-0720
Nathaniel Hios, Minister
Sun: 10:00 AM (Bible Class), 11:00 AM (Worship)
Web: kitterycoc.com



RHODE ISLAND

KENT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

42 Nooseneck Hill Rd., (Route 3) W. Greenwich
Gary Babcock, Minister; Tel: 401-397-9700
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: kentcountychurchofchrist.org



SOUTH PARIS CHURCH OF CHRIST

140 Paris Hill Rd. Tel: 207-743-8414
Neal Noey, Minister
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: oxfordhillschurchofchrist.com



VERMONT

GREEN MTN. CHURCH OF CHRIST

522 Route 4a. **CASTLETON**
Kirk Israel, Minister Tel: 802-683-4970
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: vermontchurchofchrist.com



MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

17 E. Housatonic Street, **PITTSFIELD**
Sun: 10 AM (Bible Class); 11 AM (Worship)
Tel: 413-344-8312
Web: berkshirecountycoc.org



S. BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

330 Dorset St. Tel: 802-864-7939
Sun: 10:00 AM (Class); 11:00 AM (Worship)
Mark Newton, Minister
Web: gburlchurchofchrist.com



WORCESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST

89 Beaver Brook Prkwy. Tel: 508-754-8625
John Nat Kissi, Minister
Sun: 9:30 AM (Bible Class), 10:30 AM (Worship)
Web: worcestercoc.org



CHURCHES OF CHRIST DURING THE PANDEMIC

- **BIBLE STUDIES**

www.worldbibleschool.org

- **WORSHIP SERVICES**

check websites & Facebook above

- **A CAPPELLA SINGING**

<http://woodlandoaks.org/cong-singing.html>

- **NEED TO TALK TO MINISTER?**

Leave Message on phones above

Free Bible Study Materials

- “Broadmindedness”
- “Why I Am a Member of the Church”
- “Life’s Greatest Discovery”
- “Starting Your Spiritual Journey”

Name: _____
Address: _____
Apartment: _____
City, State _____
Zip: _____
E-mail: _____

Send requests to:
CHRIST FOR TODAY
P.O. Box 755, New Milford, CT 06776
Call 860-355-0489
(Leave Message)
E-mail requests: christfortoday@gmail.com

CHRIST FOR TODAY

David Tarbet, Editor
New Milford Church of Christ
129 Litchfield Road (Route 202)
(2 miles North of New Milford Hospital)
P.O. Box 755
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

www.christfortoday.org
www.nmchurchofchrist.org
www.churchzip.com
davidtarbet.blog
worldbibleschool.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas, Texas
Permit 2829