

By Dr. Andrew Corbett

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most celebrated Psalm. in all of Scripture. It is most often associated with death and funerals. But even a cursory reading of reveals that it is actually about God's goodness and protection!

1. Where in Psalm 23 will we find these promises? Note the verse reference and any conditions:

Direction _____

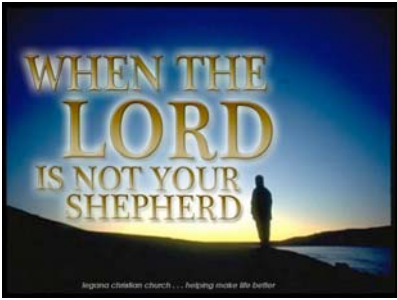
Provision _____

Refreshment _____

Courage _____

Authority _____

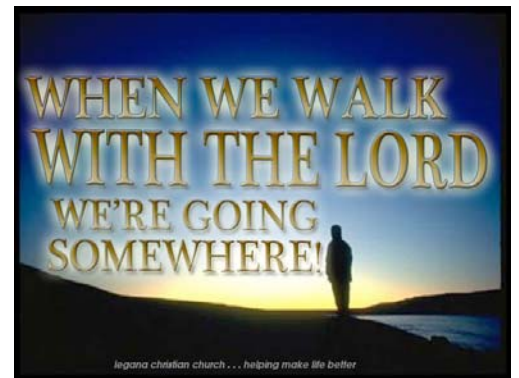
Fellowship _____



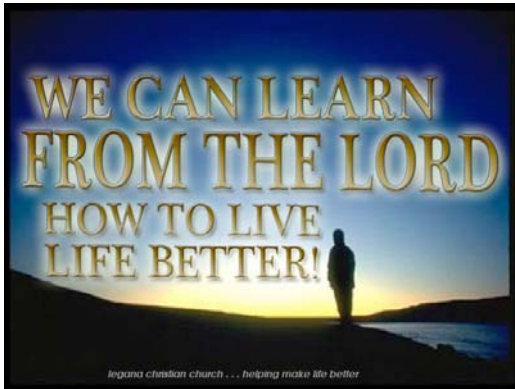
2. Note the results to *not* making the Lord your shepherd (what are the opposites to the benefits to making the Lord your shepherd?)-

3. What similarities are there between Psalm 23 and John 10?

When we walk with the Lord, we're going somewhere! Note the movement of the Psalm- "He makes me" "He leads me", "He restores", "I walk", "Goodness and mercy shall follow me", this is not a picture of a corralled sheep who is secluded from the world. This sheep is on a mission and gains enemies along the way!



4. According to Hebrews 13:20, who is the Great Shepherd and why?



5. Note the verse references to these lessons that we can learn from the Shepherd-

___ The Shepherd looks ahead.

___ The Shepherd stays on the paths of righteousness.

___ The Shepherd confronts potential fears.

___ The Shepherd uses His own rod and staff.

___ The Shepherd doesn't allow the Enemy to dictate the agenda (You prepare a table...).

___ The Shepherd strengthens and refreshes others (anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows).

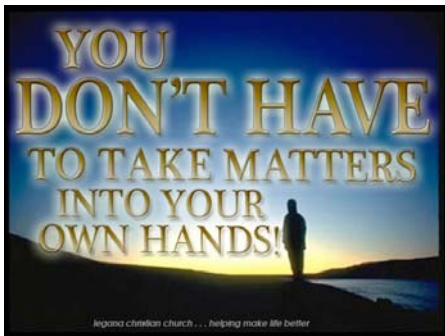
___ The Shepherd has a secure home.

6. What hope have the godly and the cause of good got against terrorists according to Psalm 10:18?

The Psalmist notes that the wicked often use oppressive means of exploitation of the poor and the vulnerable to further their prosperity. But he knows something that the wicked do not.

5. How does Psalm 10:5 finish (which should stand as a warning to any who think that greed at any price is a good thing)?

The Psalmist takes *delight* in the Lord when he declares in verse 17 that God hears the desires of the afflicted, listens to their cries for help (He will "*incline [His] ear*") and strengthens their hearts. The Psalmist concludes his Psalm by declaration that God will right wrongs and do justice for the oppressed and against the oppressors. Therefore, our source of happiness and contentment is from the Lord, not other people.



We need to turn our *tests* into our *testimonies*!

We need to allow God to turn our *mess* into a *message* (of His goodness)!

Amen.