

Psalm 23, Part Five

by

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In our study of the 23rd Psalm, we have taken the time to look at the meaning of certain words with the purpose of giving us a more detailed understanding of how they apply to the rest of this Psalm and the lives of David and as well as ourselves. We agree with the teaching of this scripture that it is a personal testimony of David as to why he lives the life he does and the direction he chooses to follow. He declared that the "Lord" is Jehovah of the Old Testament and Jesus the Shepherd of the New Testament. Having worked as a shepherd, he can relate his personal relationship with the Lord in a practical way.

Today, having seen the importance of the word "The" in its context, we move on to other words that are as personally important to us all as they were to David. These words are also small or short words, but extremely important to all us just the same. These words are "Is" and word "He." When David declared the Lord was his shepherd he was saying this in the present tense. He was not saying, maybe if he does everything exactly right that maybe the Lord will become his shepherd. The word "Is" is a word of time, meaning something that is current. By using the word "is" David was saying right now the Lord Jesus is my shepherd. What a wonderful assurance and peace this brings to our hearts when we know beyond all doubt that it is just as certain today, at this very moment, if we have entered into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This short word becomes a word of contentment and peace for we know the Great Shepherd is watching over every aspect of our lives.

The other word is "He." This is a word of possession speaking of someone who belongs to David. A good study of John 10 will with simplicity make this a reality to us one and all. Jesus said my sheep hear my voice, and another shepherd they will not follow.

John 10:2-5, "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and **the sheep hear his voice**; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 **Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him**, for they do not know the voice of strangers." NKJV

What assurance God has given us through the Lord to help us rest in the relationship we can have with him. In John 10:4, 14, Jesus said My sheep know My voice and strangers they will not follow. I know my sheep and am know of mine. I call My sheep by their names (3). Wow, what joy and peace this brings to the heart of David

and to the heart of everyone who has personally received the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives as their Savior, Lord, and God. These facts that see dogmatically declared by David are his personal testimony of what it means to belong to the Lord. It is the fact of this personal relationship that one has with the Lord that brings the comfort and assurance of the rest of this Psalm. It was very easy for David to apply the walk daily he had with the Lord. Once again we look at John 10 and listen to what the Lord Jesus relates is what we can expect in our daily walk with him. There is do doubt or reservation about how we live our lives as we just allow or permit him. The Lordship of our lives. Jesus said that when we come to know him as our Lord and Saviour, we are safe for time and eternity in the hollow of God the Fathers hand, and safe in the hollow of his hand as well. I hope and sincerely pray that you have that same personal relationship with Jesus as the Lord of your life and you are reaping the Joy and Peace he alone gives to us one and all. After you come to know and rest in that relationship you discover there is nothing else in all of the world that brings the satisfaction and joy in life like knowing Him, whom to know is life eternal.