

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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A Familiar Psalm for the Lord's Table



If there is one Psalm that most people have heard, it is the twenty-third Psalm. It has been used for funerals for many years.

When I was younger, I purposely avoided using this Psalm at funerals because it seemed almost cliché to do so.

Over time I began to realize that there was good reason why this Psalm was used at funerals. The fact that it mentions fearing no evil even while walking through the valley of the shadow of death is only one of those reasons.

While it is certainly an appropriate Psalm to read at funerals, it was not written for that purpose. It was written by one of the most famous shepherds ever in praise of the Good Shepherd, the Lord. It was not written for funerals, but it certainly has application to them.

This Psalm was not written to be used at the Lord's Supper either. However, it does have application to it. Consider the following phrase-by-

phrase application of it to the Lord's Supper.

"The LORD is My Shepherd"

Jesus is the good Shepherd Who lays down His life for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NKJV)

"I Shall not Want"

He has provided us with all things that pertain to life and godliness.

"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

"He Makes Me to Lie Down in Green Pastures"

He is the bread that came from Heaven to feed our souls, not just our bodies.

"35 And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst...51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." John 6:35, 51(NKJV)

"He Leads Me Beside the Still Waters"

He provides a time of reflection and self-examination, a time of calm in the chaos of this world.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." I Corinthians 11:28 (NKJV)

"28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)

"He Restores My Soul"

There is life for our souls in the Lord's Supper.

"53 Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:53-54 (NKJV)

"He Leads Me in the Paths of Righteousness for His Name's Sake"

The Lord's Supper calls us back to the paths of righteousness as we examine ourselves and judge ourselves. He never leads us into temptation but delivers us from evil.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged." I Corinthians 11:31 (NKJV)

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom

and the power and the glory forever. Amen." **Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)**

"Yea, Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Will Fear No Evil"

We have no need to fear death because He has conquered death.

"17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, **Do not be afraid**; I am the First and the Last. 18 **I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**" **Revelation 1:17-18 (NKJV)**

"23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, **have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**" **Acts 2:23-24 (NKJV)**

"For You are With Me"

He is present with us when we partake of the Lord's Supper. It is a communion (fellowship, participation, sharing) in His body and blood.

"26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body. 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, **I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**" **Matthew 26:26-29 (NKJV)**

"The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?** The bread which we break, **is it not the communion of the body of Christ?**" **I Corinthians 10:16 (NKJV)**

"Your Rod and Your Staff, They Comfort Me"

These speak of His leading, protection, and chastening. He chastens us so that we will not be condemned with the world.

"But when we are judged, **we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.**" **I Corinthians 11:32 (NKJV)**

"You Prepare a Table Before Me in the Presence of My Enemies"

Hopefully, your enemies are not at the Lord's Table. Nevertheless, we have many enemies in this world. The Lord's Supper is a table that He has prepared for us. We cannot partake of His table and the table of His enemies.

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; **you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.**" **I Corinthians 10:21 (NKJV)**

"You Anoint My Head with Oil"

This speaks to health and beauty. He provides all we need to be healthy and without spot spiritually.

"55 For **My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.** 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so **he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.** 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven--**not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.**" **John 6:55-58 (NKJV)**

"That He might present her to Himself **a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**" **Ephesians 5:27 (NKJV)**

"My Cup Runs Over"

He has provided for us in abundance, an oversupply of what we need spiritually.

"Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,**" **Romans 5:20 (NKJV)**

"Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me all the Days of My Life"

He will bless us for all the days of our lives here.

"But **God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**" **Ephesians 2:4 (NKJV)**

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**" **Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)**

"Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and **fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,**" **II Thessalonians 1:11 (NKJV)**

"And I Will Dwell in the House of the LORD Forever."

We have an eternal home waiting for us in the house of the Lord – Heaven.

"For we know that if **our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**" **II Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV)**



"1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.**

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." **John 14:1-3 (NKJV)**