Psalm 23:-

As we look at Psalm 23 we remember that David was called when a shepherd boy and anointed by Samuel to be King of Israel after Saul was rejected by the Lord – see 1 Samuel chapter 15, verse 35 – chapter 16, verse 13. Remember also that Jacob served his time as a shepherd to his father – in -law Laban (Genesis chapters 29 – 30) and Moses was a shepherd in the wilderness when he encountered God at the burning bush (Exodus chapter 3).

The experience of being a shepherd to a flock of sheep is an excellent background for a someone called to pastor human beings. Many of the same faults, failings and variation in character have their counterparts in both sheep and men and women. One can lead but one cannot drive either sheep or people!
See the definition of 'The Good Shepherd' from the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The Gospel of John chapter 10, verses 1 – 18.

Psalm 23, verse 1- 2:-
The Psalm opens with a personal affirmation of faith. 'Because I belong to the Almighty Lord God, He will provide all I need for my well-being'. The shepherd in caring for his flock ensures they have food and water. Note that sheep always prefer still water to drink rather than streams. This care for us is primarily spiritual. However the Lord's Prayer, as taught by Jesus, does ask for food 'for this day', trusting the shepherd to lead to green pastures tomorrow! See Luke chapter 12, verses 22 – 24, note that the Lord Jesus refers to the disciples as *"...little flock . . ."* (verse 32).

Verse 3:-
The Lord can touch us in our very being – our 'soul'. Lifting us up when we stumble and fall. Leading us on a better path – not necessarily easier but going the way of His will.

Verse 4:-
"The valley of deep darkness" may occur at any time! Not necessarily the *"shadow of death"* although it may feel like it! The presence of the Lord walking just ahead of us gives us the assurance of His protection. The shepherd has the skills and the weapons to overcome all our enemies.

Verse 5:-
Here the psalmist affirms the generous provision of the Lord. This is not given in secret but as an open demonstration of the Lord's power. Not only are our physical needs provided for, but also the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit,

Verse 6:-
The psalm closes with a statement of faith in the provision of the Lord for the future. For the words of the Lord Jesus – the Good Shepherd see the Gospel of John, chapter 10, verses 27 – 30. This is the promise of our Lord to His people.

"Since I know, as now I know, I am his and He is mine" (from verse 2 of the hymn 'Loved with everlasting love')

1) Loved with everlasting love,
Led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above,
Thou hast taught me it is so.
Oh, this full and perfect peace!
Oh, this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease,
I am His, and He is mine.

4) His forever, only His:
Who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss
Christ can fill the loving heart.
Heaven and earth may fade and flee,
Firstborn light in gloom decline;
But, while God and I shall be,
I am His, and He is mine.

G. W. Robinson 1838-1877 (verses 1 and 4)

Terry Brighton 11 / 9 / 2025