**Hope in Despair – Ps. 23:1**

**Focal Truth: When in despair remember that Jesus Christ is your Shepherd**

**Observations**

1. **Hope confesses - Jesus Christ is my shepherd who always provides 23:1**

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want*

1. The believer confesses the Lord is His Shepherd = flock feeder, overseer

**The Lord is Lord Shepherd – God is the Lord overseer, provider**

**The Lord is Lord Shepherd provider for all his people’s needs**

**The Lord Jesus is Lord Shepherd of His people**

1. The believer confesses & believes that Jesus Christ is their good shepherd

**The Lord Jesus is the good shepherd of his people**

*I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep J.10:11*

*I am the good shepherd , and I know my own and my own know me J. 10:14*

*For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the* ***Shepherd and guardian*** *of your souls 1 P.2:25*

**Shepherd = *pastor* - guardian = episkopos – overseer, guardian, care - giver**

1. The believer believes Jesus Christ their good shepherd will provide whatever they need – *I know my sheep…I give them eternal life*

*My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus P. 4:19*

*His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life & godliness 2 P.1:3*

**Consider**

1. Jesus Christ watches over the condition of your soul – **He sees your despair**
2. Jesus Christ protects the condition of your soul – **He feels your despair**

H. 2:16 – *He himself was tempted in that which he suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted*

H. *2:15 - for we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our*

*weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

*Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

1. **Hope praises - Jesus Christ my shepherd is always present 23: 2 – 3**
2. The Lord Shepherd **makes** believers rest 23:2

**Makes = to cause to stop & rest**

*He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters*

*Come to me all you who are heavy and burdened down and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls M. 11:28 – 29*

* Coming to our Lord Shepherd in our despair is first step to hope in despair
* Living like our Lord Shepherd in our despair gives us His strength
* Remaining aware of our Lord Shepherd presence brings rest

1. The Lord Shepherd **revives** believers 23:3

*He restores my soul;*

1. The Lord Shepherd **guides** believers 23:3

*He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake*

1. The Lord Shepherd **abides** with believers 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for You are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me*

1. The Lord Shepherd **strengthens** believers 23:5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows*
2. **Hope rests - the goodness & love of Jesus Christ my shepherd protects 23:6**

*Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*

**Surely = no doubt, certainly**

***According to your lovingkindness remember me, for your goodness sake, O Lord 25:7***

1. Believers **confidently rest** in the Lord Shepherds life – long provisions for their needs

Lit. ***Only goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life***

*What has followed you all of your life? – the grace of the Lord’s goodness & love*

* Some believers believe that **troubles follow them**
* Some believers believe that **bad things follow them**
* But the Lord Shepherd sends goodness & love to follow us to come to our aid in our times of trouble and despair

1. Believers **assuredly rest** in the Lord Shepherds life – long provisions of goodness & love

**Consider – Steps to Hope in Despair**

1. Think about the God’s life – long goodness to you!
2. Think about God’s life – long love for you!
3. Trust the Lord Shepherd to give you goodness in the pain of despair
4. Rest in the Lord Shepherd’s life – long for you regardless of your despair
5. Believers **hopefully rest** in the promise of an eternal relationship with God in heaven

*I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*

***How blessed is the one whom you choose and bring to dwell in your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, your holy temple 65:4***

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. The Lord Jesus will always provide for your needs
2. Give thanks to the Lord for his permanent presence with you
3. The Lord’s goodness & love are your companions for all of life
4. Eternal goodness and love await you in heaven!

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**