

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

## Psalm 23: My Trust is in the Lord

by Matthew Collins

Conclusion

Psalm 23 is a psalm that shows true confidence in the Master Shepherd. Do we have confidence in the Lord as David did? We can. I am reminded of passages such as Joshua 1:9, Deuteronomy 31:6, and Jeremiah 1:8, where the people of God long ago were told not to be afraid, and were promised by God that He would be with them all the way. In Hebrews 13:5, God promised, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, so that we confidently say, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?” In Matthew 28:20 Jesus promised, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Psalm 23 also speaks of assurance through both prosperity and adversity. David says that even though he walks through darkness, he will fear no evil. It is amazing to see how David, in Psalm 23, says he walks through the valley of the shadow of death, yet makes it clear that his cup overflows. If we will let the Lord lead as a Shepherd as He did David, our cup will overflow.

Finally, Psalm 23 deals with a hope of dwelling in the house of the Lord. Gaebelein writes, “The psalmist draws comfort that God’s love and presence are constant. His ‘goodness and love’ reflect the attributes of Yahweh, the covenant faithful God.” He also gives an excellent interpretation of what dwelling in the house of the Lord actually means when he says, “The psalmist’s experience of God’s ‘goodness and love’ is equivalent to dwelling in the house of the Lord” (Gaebelein 218).

A famous writer was asked to come back and give a speech at his old high school. The writer felt honored and agreed to come and deliver a speech. When it came time to speak, the famous writer gave quite a performance as he delivered a speech that had both faculty and students marveling at his message. Finally, for his grand conclusion he recited the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. He said, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. . .” After he was finished, he received a standing ovation with an applause that was heard throughout the school. As the audience began to sit back down and the flashes from the cameras were ceasing, the writer looked out and noticed one of his older teachers from long ago; a man who had actually taught him the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and inspired him to become a writer. Delighted to see him, the writer asked the old teacher to come up and recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm as he had done. The old teacher was reluctant, but agreed. He slowly walked onto the stage as the writer sat down in a chair amongst the audience. The old teacher began to speak and said, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall never want. He makes me lie down in the greenest pastures; and He leads me beside such still and quiet waters. He restores my weary soul. . .” One by one the audience began to get up from their chairs and leave the school. By the time the old teacher was finished with the psalm only two were left, the famous writer and a perplexed student. The old teacher slowly got down from the stage and left the school. The perplexed student

went over and sat down next to the writer who was still sitting in his seat. The student asked, “Why is it that when you recited the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm everyone gave you a standing ovation, yet when the old teacher recited the same psalm they all left?” The famous writer sighed, then looked up at the student and said with a very timid voice, “You see son, while I know the psalm, the old teacher knows the shepherd. I don’t know the shepherd.”

There are some passages of Scripture that are very familiar to us. We have heard them for years and may be able to quote them with ease. Psalm 23 is one that is very familiar. Scripture is often seen on posters and t-shirts in public. Now passages are often branded into the skin of individuals that desire a fancy tattoo, or possibly just desire self-confidence knowing the Bible is involved in their lives somehow. My desires are not one in the same. Shall I brand the Word of God on my skin? I, rather, consider Scripture most useful ingrained in my heart. For there it will speak louder than any t-shirt, poster, or even a tattoo.



## Leviticus

*by Dempsey Collins*

While the title is appropriate for certain sections – namely, chapters 8-10, 16, 21, 22, most of the book is directed to all the people of Israel (1:2 “speak to the sons of Israel...”).

AUTHOR: Moses. The words “The Lord said to Moses” occur thirty five times in the book. Rom. 10:5 quotes Lev. 18:5. See also John 1:17, 45; 5:46, 47; Mark 12:26; and Luke 24:27, 44.

SCOPE: Leviticus was written while Israel was camped at Mount Sinai (7:38; 25:1; 26:46; 27:34). From Exodus 19:1 and Num. 10:11 is less than a year.

THEME: “You are to be holy for I the Lord am holy and I have set you apart from the peoples to be mine” (20:26). In Exodus, we saw Israel redeemed. Leviticus tells us how a redeemed people can approach God in worship and how the fellowship thus established can be maintained. The message of Leviticus is: Access to God is only through blood and access thus obtained calls for holiness on the part of the worshiper. “The worship of Jehovah required a distinction between the sacred and the secular, the holy and the common. It meant especially a recognition of the presence of Yahweh and the preparation for entering that presence”. (A History of Israel, Kaiser, p. 122)

Leviticus provides a code of laws designed to make Israel different from other nations, spiritually, morally, mentally and physically. In other words Israel was to become a holy nation – a nation separated from the ways and customs of the nations surrounding them and consecrated to the service of the one true God.

*to be continued*

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### **News and Notes:**

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses. “...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16