

***Thought for Today: August 23, 2007***

**Psalm 23 (NASB)**

**The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He guides me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

This must be the most beloved psalm of them all, and it's easy to why. It's brief and beautiful, comforting and reassuring. Much could be said about the assurance to be found in this psalm, but the psalm really does speak for itself. We will dwell in God's house forever because He is our shepherd—our guide, protector, and provider.

If we will allow God to function in those roles for us, then we can live without the worry and burden of feeling like we have to take care of ourselves. We can truly take a deep breath and lay all of our burdens down at the feet of our Lord. The Lord will lead if we will follow. The Lord will guide if we will watch His steps. The Lord will keep us safely with Him if we refuse to stray. The Lord will mark us as His own, if we will accept the blessings of His grace. We are so blessed to have a Lord who loves us this much. Let's be sure to take time today to thank God, our Shepherd.

In Him,  
Patrick Barber