

**The Lord is My Shepherd 3 of 4**  
**“His Promise”**  
Psalm 23:1,6

Thesis: I want to show the promise we have from God.

***Introduction:***

- A. We make promises all the time. Sometimes things may happen that we are unable (or unwilling) to keep that promise. When this happens, others begin to question our ability to keep the promises we make.
- B. The Bible also contains many promises. Occasionally, we find one that was made by a man. But most of the promises we find are those made by God. One of the things we notice about God’s promises is that He always keeps them.
- C. Today, we want to look at the promise He has made through His relationship with David to us today. It is a promise we want to remember and of which we should take advantage.

**I. “*Surely Goodness And Lovingkindness Will Follow Me All The Days Of My Life;*”**

**A. Surely goodness and lovingkindness (mercy)**

- 1. The first word here tells us that what will follow David is guaranteed to all faithful followers of God.
  - a. It’s not up for debate; those who trust in God will have goodness and lovingkindness follow them because they are faithful servants of God and because God is with those who love Him.
  - b. Goodness-what God provides for those who love Him is good. The faithful person can look at their lives and see the goodness of God - Psa 31:19

**Psalms 31:19** - *How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men!*

- 2. Lovingkindness (Mercy) is compassion and pity for others.
  - a. We have done nothing to deserve lovingkindness from God, yet we receive it from Him.
  - b. Lovingkindness is seen in the sacrifice of Christ for the redemption of the faithful - Matt 1:21

**Matthew 1:21** - *"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

- 3. Even while facing great difficulties in our lives we can still see the goodness of God and His lovingkindness - Psa 86:12-13

**Psalms 86:12-13** - *I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever. For Your lovingkindness toward me is great, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.*

**B. Will follow me all the days of my life**

- 1. God’s gifts for the faithful are continual and not a onetime blessing. They continue and remain with those who love the LORD - Lam 3:22-23

**Lamentations 3:22-23** - *The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

- 2. The goodness and mercy that comes from God lasts while we are faithful to Him during the time we have on this earth.

3. If we are to enjoy the goodness and lovingkindness of God, we must be faithful because those who are unfaithful do not have these benefits from God - Psa 34:15-19

**Psalms 34:15-19** - The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

## II. *“And I Will Dwell In The House Of The LORD Forever”*

### A. And I will dwell

1. As a result of being faithful we have goodness & lovingkindness given to us from God and as a result of those things we (the faithful) will dwell with Him.
2. To dwell with Him doesn't mean to just hear Him or be able to speak to Him it means we literally live with Him, our home is with God, the Father of the faithful - Rom 6:8a; 2 Tim 2:11

**Romans 6:8** - Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

**2 Timothy 2:11** - It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

### B. in the house of the LORD Forever

1. God has made sure that the faithful who are in eternal life abide in a place that is proper and fitting for those who love Him - Jn 14:2-3

**John 14:2-3** - "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 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.

- a. Not only are we with the Father and the Father is with us, but we are in this place of rest for all eternity.
- b. Forever has no end, it's a time that continues and never comes to an end because God has no end and the faithful who dwell (live or make their home with Him) have no end.
- c. Man does not have to die twice, unless Christ comes back before we die, we will face one death. This is not avoidable - the 2nd death (eternal damnation) is avoidable - Matt 7:13-14

**Matthew 7:13-14** - "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. Think for a moment with me - the faithful die-but do they stay dead?
  - a. No, the faithful find a place that's described as eternal life
  - b. We continue to live for eternity - Rev 2:11

**Revelation 2:11** - 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

3. The unfaithful, when they die, what do they face? Do they stay dead? No!
  - a. But they continue to feel the pains of death for all eternity in a place designed for the unfaithful and rebellious thus they face the 2nd death, or we could say eternal death - Rev 21:8

**Revelation 2:8** - "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

- b. All will live after their bodies stop working but it's where we live that make the difference and it's how we live before God today that determines which place we will live.
- C. The result of our faithfulness is found in eternal life with the Father where we abide forever because of His lovingkindness and it's where we see the ultimate display of God's goodness, care and love.

### III. *The Promise Extends To Us Today.*

- A. God made a promise to David and He makes the same promise to us today.
  - 1. We (the faithful today) can have the goodness and lovingkindness of God in our lives.
  - 2. We can see the goodness of God and know His lovingkindness through the sacrifice of His Son and through the blessings and comfort He gives us today.
- B. We must take advantage of God's promise.
  - 1. God promised that the faithful will live with Him for eternity.
  - 2. We must decide if we are willing to be faithful to Him so that we can know His goodness and lovingkindness and abide with Him forever in His house (the heavenly abode).

### ***Conclusion:***

A. Today it's time we choose who we will serve and where we will abide forever (Joshua 24:15).

**Joshua 24:15** - "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."