

The Lord is my Shepherd pt.2 of 3
“His Provision”
Psalm 23:1, 5

Thesis: I want to show the provisions that God makes for those who are His sheep.

Introduction:

- A. As we continue to look at the implications of the 23rd Psalm, we are beginning to understand the implications of what is there. David was wholly dedicated to God and sought to always do His will.
- B. He understood the Lord is the source of every good and righteous thing. As we looked last week, we saw that in the presence of the shepherd there is nothing to fear and our Shepherd will guide us (the faithful) safely through this life.
- C. Today we want to see how God provides for us and what He provides for us is truly a blessing - (Psalm 103:2,5).

Psalm 103:2 - Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;

Psalm 103:5 - Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

I. “You Prepare A Table Before Me In The Presence Of My Enemies” - Proverbs 10:22

Proverbs 10:22 - It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.

A. “You...”

- 1. There is no mistake that “you or thou” are references to God. It is God who provides the true needs for His sheep.
- 2. The “provisions” of the world are temporary and often still leave us in need and hurting - Prov 27:20; Ecc 2:11

Proverbs 27:20 - Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 - Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

- 3. The provisions God provides for us not only helps us in this life but also leads us to trust in Him who in turn leads us to spiritual blessings and ultimately eternal life.

B. “...prepare a table before me...” the Lord provides & blesses - Psalm 78:19-29

Psalm 78:19-29 - Then they spoke against God; They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing; Can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people?" Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath; And a fire was kindled against Jacob And anger also mounted against Israel, Because they did not believe in God And did not trust in His salvation. Yet He commanded the clouds above And opened the doors of heaven; He rained down manna upon them to eat And gave them food from heaven. Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance. He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens And by His power He directed the south wind. When He rained meat upon them like the dust, Even winged fowl like the sand of the seas, Then He let them fall in the midst of their camp, Round about their dwellings. So they ate and were well filled, And their desire He gave to them.

1. While many of our lives are fast paced and we are often running to keep up, the Lord provides for us amid this busy & difficult life. God blesses those who are His servants with blessings that-sadly, sometimes go unnoticed.
2. When's the last time you counted your blessings?
3. We can also see that the blessings of God are found here at a prepared table. A table designed or prepared specifically for obedient servants of God.

C. "...in the presence of my enemies;" - Psalm 29:11

Psalms 29:11 - The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

1. Despite what our enemies in this life may do, they cannot stop the blessings of God.
2. Not only can these enemies not stop God, but we (faithful followers) are blessed by God in front of our enemies - Proverbs 16:7

Proverbs 16:7 - When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

II. *"You Have Anointed My Head With Oil; My Cup Overflows"*

A. "You have anointed my head with oil;" - Psalm 138:7

Psalms 138:7 - Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.

1. The anointing of a guest's head was to refresh the guests.
2. God refreshes His faithful from all their hard labors - Matthew 11:28

Matthew 11:28 - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

B. "my cup overflows."

[Eph 1:3 – every blessing God wants us to have is given to the faithful]

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

1. The cup here can be representative of the life of a person.
2. Thus, the faithful of God have their lives overflowing with blessings.

III. *Provisions From God For Us Today*

A. Provision of Eternal Life

1. God truly makes provisions for those who follow Him
2. The greatest provision He has made for us is a plan to gain eternal life through the blood of His Son - John 15:13

John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

B. Provisions through Prayer

1. God has a way for us to communicate to Him, through our prayers we lay our fears, needs, concerns and every other issue we may have at the feet of the Almighty.
2. Through answering our prayers God grants us provisions as according to His will.
3. Job makes mention of how God cared for him especially during his trials - Job 10:12; also notice – Job 1:12; 2:6

Job 10:12 - "You have granted me life and lovingkindness; And Your care has preserved my spirit.

Job 1:12 - Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 - So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

C. Provisions through the Church & God's Word

1. Through the Church & God's Word we grow spiritually and emotionally.
2. Trials that could cripple a worldly person ought to be more easily handled by a servant of God because of the blessings/provisions given to them by God and through God's Word - 1 Cor 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Conclusion:

- A. God has provided us with many provisions in this life!
- B. When's the last time you considered what God has provided for you and thanked Him for those provisions?