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Thus he became God manifested in the flesh and as the onuique person of the univeerse he came to die ~~in~~ in your stead and mine. After he died the third day he arose again, For the Gospel is that Christ died for our sins and was buried according to the scriptures and he arose again from the dead victorious ly ash accoriding to the scriptures, and as a living ressurected savior he now now has procured on the other side of dead hell and the grave alive, a quality of righteous eternal and everlasting life which he now in turn seeks to give to everyone who swill simply believe that he came to provide all this for all men, who ever lived and every will live upon the face of this earth. And as a living Saviour he said whoesoever will may come, David Said the Lord is my shepherd , I acknowledge Jesus Christ ~~now~~ not only as a Shpetherd but my shepherd. Do you know that its very possible, as it was with me, for wexample, to look at a crucifixe in a church, and at Christmas time acknowlecge the fact that Jesus was born of a irgin naand laid in a manger. Its very possible as it was with me at eastertime, to go to church nad to sing about the ressurection of Jesus Christ And yet its another thing to have personally recieved this living Saviour who is alive and no longer hanonging on a cross as ones onown personal savior so that all that he is has becomea a living inner intantitae reality ~~in the hearts and lives~~ of the one who has placed w his faith in this Christ who had them personally in mind who died for them personally and arose again to give them his personal life. And the difference between heaven and Hell is the difference between making this Christ, personally yours or not. That is the key. YOU would probably find it very difficult to find some one on the face of this earth who has not heard about Jesus Christ. And yet the lLord Jesus Said " broad is the wya to Hell, or destruction, and many there are that are on that road, narrow is the way to righteousness, and few there are that find it , and are on the narrow road which leads to heaven, which means if I fdrive through the city of Virginia, Duluth or Minneapolis, I can on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ say " the bulk of this city is going to Hell", religious or otherwise, because though they may have heard about Christ in most cases they have failed to personally appropriate the provisiton and to be vorn again, born from above nad and then become the personal recipients of eternal life, intelligently through faith in Christ, this is the difference between ytrue biblical Christianity and religio n . And I make this distinction because Christianity is a relationship with a person the Lord is my Shepherd. Religion in contrast, of this personal relation with Christ requires the individual to join something to deny themselves something sto become integrated in tsomething to do something of a religious nature. Tuhus religion in contrast, encourages an individual to work their way slowly to heaven through rituals, holy days, whatever it might be, hoping someday they may qualify to go to heaven isf they meet all the standards, the rules the obligs simply keep the ten commandments, the golden rule be sincere, hoping someday God might weight his good against his bad, and if he acan atone for his own sins rthrough his own religoius works and if he hhas said enough prayers, if he has donated enough money , if he has opolished enough stain glass windowns maybe, God will weight his good against his bad and altimated he may , nothing garanteed, make it. That's religion always hoping never knowing always wondering but never knowing dyond a shadow of a doubt that if I would die today , where I would spend eternity. Now to com1 lete the cycle, as we skip what's in between verse six of Psalms twenty thre e says this, and is consistent with verse one for if I can say the Lord is my Shptherd, then I caln logically quote verse six with David as well, without even being presumptiouous. Suerely Goodness and mercy shall follow sme all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Do you mean to tell me that when David siad the Lord is my Shptherd that that was synonymous with knowing where youre going to spend eternit that 's exackly right that's exackly right now, if the Christisan life comemeses with trecieving this Lord Jesus Christ as ones own personal Savior, so that I can sya the Lord is my shepherd, . if the culminiation of that life is then is to be with the wLo4d forever we have in the middle the Lords sheph ship how he takes care of his own between the time one is saved or born against or becomes a Christian , or Christ-one, ~~or goes to~~ and goes to be with the Lord.

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In thinking of what might be said at this time I couldn't help but think about the songs Leroy heard on tape it was a message I had given sometime, about a year or two ago. They were listening to it on tape. and I thought that maybe today I could make a few comments in conjunction with the 23rd Psalm. I hope it might bring some comfort and help to some, to the family and to friends as well as presenting the, an invitation to consider the Shepherd that David spoke of. Jesus Christ is your Shepherd. The 23rd Psalm is a small Psalm a short ~~six~~ Psalm consisting of six verses. It completes the cycle or circle not only does it complete the cycle or circle ~~but~~ and the sheep's routine as he would follow a shepherd. It also illustrates a cycle or circle of an individual's life who has accepted Christ, as their very own Savior. I assume that you are somewhat familiar with the Psalm. It even starts ~~out~~ by saying, "The Lord is My Shepherd." Now David who ~~offered this particular poem~~ was a shepherd. He was the son of a shepherd, whose name was Jesse, and he was the first king that ~~was~~ became a shepherd king. In fact, while talking he thought he'd be a good king ~~while he shepherded the sheep~~. As David reviewed his responsibilities as a shepherd, as he became very familiar with sheep, he likened himself to one of the sheep that he himself shepherded, and likened his ~~position~~ position as a shepherd to the Lord Jesus Christ, and thus we have a beautiful analogy of a shepherd ~~likened unto sheep~~ - sheep relationship. ~~As he reviewed his responsibility as a shepherd with particular sheep, that he had charge over he considered it a privilege to consider~~ place himself at the disposal of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now first of all we should look at the shepherd ~~his~~ his qualifications as well as his sheep and their actual tendencies that cause us to see their need of a shepherd. First of all we'll look at the sheep. Sheep are not very smart. Sheep do not have good vision. Sheep by nature are rebels, sheep have no way of defending themselves. Sheep normally and naturally would rather follow sheep than follow a shepherd. Sheep have a tendency to believe that it's always greener on the other side of the fence. ~~Sheep every desire to be~~ Sheep ever desire to want to be on the other side of the fence and sheep desire to want to be their own shepherd, they'd prefer by nature that independence rather than being dependent upon another. Now by nature ~~man~~ as sinful creatures we are very independent in fact one could define sin as total independence. For you see what God made man originally he made man in his own image for the purpose of reflecting the very glory of God which would be reflecting the very image of God, but man ~~wants~~ wants to be totally dependent upon his maker the Lord Jesus Christ. The act of sin in taking the fruit which resulted in man being put under a curse the curse of death was nothing more than an attitude of saying in effect "I don't want God to tell me what to do I'm going to make my own plans do my own thing make my own choices, irregardless of the consequences. He became completely independent. As the result of Adam's sin in the garden one of the offsprings of that moment ~~has~~ has produced generations after generations of independent creatures, or sinful creatures, thus by nature again man does not want to be dependent upon God, or anyone else. He wants to be totally independent. The lust in wealth in money is to fulfill the objective to be totally independent from anyone or anything and the wealthier an individual is the more independent he becomes, and when you talk with a wealthy individual you may say to that individual have you ever felt your need of Jesus Christ. And the typical reaction is no, non non non no no no I have no need. The Lord Jesus put it this way it's more difficult for a wealthy man to enter the kingdom of God than it is for a camel to go through an eye of a needle. What did that wealth do? It made him increasingly independent. Now David said the Lord is my Shepherd, and the 23rd Psalm cannot begin until first of all the Lord Jesus Christ becomes that individual's shepherd. In the first place where an independent sinner must become dependent upon God's provision is in conjunction with the Gospel of Grace the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that's the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news, the good story, concerning God's willingness ~~to save you which~~ to die for man for the purpose of saving or saving you from a condition which would result in eternal ruin for a trying nation. ~~He~~ Man is born under the curse of death and it is appointed unto man once to die after death comes the judgement the wages of sin is death the soul that sinneth it shall die, and death is that curse which has been placed upon every member of the human race, without partiality thus it makes no difference whether a person is moral immoral religious or irreligious wealthy or poor there's a point in time when an individual will have an appointment with death which is an appointment that he cannot postpone now David said the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want, what are the essentials of the shepherd who is this Lord