

I. Review

Last week we ended our study of the crucifixion. I took the time to show you how it all goes together: the New Testament events, which we laid out from the book of Mark, and then the Old Testament thoughts as Christ faces God's wrath for our salvation through the Old Testament passages. You now should have all of that in your Bible. You should have all the Old Testament passages lined up with the New Testament events and have gotten that into your Bible for future reference as you either teach the Bible or for your own edification.

It is just like today, as it was at the first coming of Christ, we see man's complete rejection of what God has given us and what He has done for us. He gave us the free gift of eternal life, and the world today is much like it was at the first coming of Christ. At the first coming of Christ, the world basically wanted nothing to do with Him, and today we see the same thing. The parallels between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ are quite incredible. It is a picture that history always repeats itself, and what you are seeing today in the world, especially in America, is what you would find in the nation of Israel at the first coming of Christ, except we are right before the second coming of Christ.

➤ Christ's Thoughts on the Cross (6-9th Hour)

Last week, we ended where we started. We started in Psalms 22:1-30, and then I took you through all of the other passages. Last week, we came back to Psalms 22 and tied it all together. In that Psalm, as in Job the week before, we saw the layout of His thoughts during the sixth to the ninth hour. I think the most amazing thing out of last week that most people never see and understand is that when you get into the mind of Christ when He is on the cross, you actually see what He is thinking. I showed you last week how He was focused on two primary identities that He is associated with. I showed you how that on the cross, even though the Jews are crucifying Him, He is thinking of them in the fact that He knows that someday He is going to restore them. We saw that His death would in time bring them as a nation back to God.

You and I were born again the day we trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior. That is because the kingdom that we were born into is a spiritual kingdom, the Kingdom of God. But Israel gets born again too. Israel's new birth is not in an individual form like yours and mine. Israel gets born again as a corporate nation, and that is because their kingdom is the literal, physical Kingdom of Heaven. So, when the Lord comes back you begin to see how this process takes place.

One of the key doctrines in the Bible that is almost forgotten today, churches like this still preach it, but one of the key doctrines in the Bible will be the restoration of the nation of Israel. Which you see being played out in these last days, starting in the latter part of the 19th century with the Zionist movement, moving into the 20th century with Israel becoming a nation in 1948, and now seeing what is going on in the world right before the Lord comes back at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a lot of confusion today of things that are very clear in the Bible if you are a Bible believer. But if you do not believe the Bible, or have the right Bible, but do not study it right, then you can get all messed up. Thursday night, I talked to you about how all week-long people will ask me, tell me, send me, how that with what is going on in America today, Trump has to be the Antichrist because he is bringing peace all around the world. They know just a little bit about the Bible, so they know that the Antichrist brings a kind of a world peace. So they connect the two, adding two and two and coming up with 9,440, and thinking that he is the Antichrist. I told you, nothing shows how little a person knows about the Bible and how inadequate they are with the Bible than that kind of mindset. The Bible is very clear. I told you Thursday night, there is more information in the Bible on the Antichrist than any other person other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything that you need to know is right there.

But we live in a world today, a Christian world, where the internet is more popular than the Bible and all of the stuff that people get. It amazes me how the world, the unsaved world, knows something is about to happen. They know that something terrible is foreboding out there, they just do not know what it is. I got a thing from one of the great guys in the financial world talking about the coming disaster that is going to befall the world. He is absolutely right, but he does not understand where it comes from. They see something happening, they do not understand it, they do not have a Bible, they can never connect the dots.

➤ We Need a King – We need the King of Kings & Lord of Lords

It amuses me. This weekend was hate Trump weekend all across the country. In Chicago and LA, they had all these things about Trump being a king. We do not need a king. Even in Kansas City, the streets were lined with people holding signs: "No King." "We got rid of our king in 1776," which is not exactly true. They do not know anything about history. It goes on and on. I saw that and I thought to myself, "That is amazing."

Now I will tell you something, this country needs a king. We are like the book of Judges, and in the book of Judges, you know what Israel's problem was? It was the same problem we have. You know what it was? It was the fact that there was no king in Israel, and every man did what was right in his own eyes. We need a king, but it is not Trump. We need a king. They do not understand it. They are upset and hate Trump and say we do not want him as king. But if you took Trump out of the picture and put anybody else in there that stood for anything right and proper, they would hate them too. The problem is not Trump as king. The problem is this world does not want Jesus as king.

A guy asked me one time, he says, "Why does Christ have to come back in such a grandiose way, killing everybody, upsetting this, tearing this up, just murdering millions of people in the Battle of Armageddon? Why does He have to do that?" The answer is simple. The first time He came, He came as the Savior. He came as the loving Jesus. You see what they did to Him. If He came back the second time just like He came back the first time, they would kill Him in 48 hours. So He is not coming back the same way. He is coming now to take charge. He gave you the chance the first time, and the world killed Him. You are not going to get a chance to kill Him a second time. **He is coming back as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.** He will take over the

whole world. That is what this country needs. It does not need Trump as a king. They need Jesus as a king. But it is not going to happen until the King of Kings comes back.

People talk about, "Well, Trump brought peace to the Middle East." Oh, come on. That ceasefire is not worth the paper it was written on. They made a ceasefire. What are the Palestinians doing? What is Hamas doing? They are taking all the Palestinians down in Gaza that they think helped the nation of Israel and executing them publicly in the streets. Some cease fire you have there. When God's ceasefire comes in, that will be a ceasefire. You know why? Who is going to enforce it? Me and you, if you are saved. That is the beauty about this day. I am telling you. **This country needs a king, but it needs King Jesus.**

II. The Book of Romans-the Handbook of Christian Doctrine

We know that from past times, I taught the book of Romans verse by verse years ago, and I showed you how the book of Romans is the handbook of Christian doctrine. We have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that shows us the transition from the nation of Israel coming into the New Testament. Then we have the book of Acts, which is basically the Acts of the Apostles, showing us the transition into the church age. Once the church gets established, the next book He gives us is Romans. Romans teaches us that the church is now established, after the book of Acts, and what we are supposed to believe. Every chapter! Once He gives you that book, then the next two books are about two churches: First Corinthians and Second Corinthians. The same church has two books. First Corinthians shows you what happens when a church does not obey what Romans says. Second Corinthians shows you how the church is successful when it believes what Romans says. It is incredible. It is a progression. Romans is probably, once you get your feet on the ground and you get a foundation in the Bible, sooner or later the book of Romans has to come into your life as the fundamental handbook of Christian doctrine of why this church believes what it believes.

It is chapter by chapter a complete understanding of the teachings and the doctrines of New Testament Christianity. You know what the key is? Most people never see this. Every book that Paul writes, he writes to one of the churches. If you ever noticed, when it comes to Romans, he did not write the book of Romans to a church. In Corinthians, there is "to the church of this," and "to the church of that." When it comes to Romans, it does not say "to any church." It is written to the people that are in Rome. That is the key to the book.

When you come to the book of Romans, the first eight chapters deal with understanding the difference between the Jew and the Gentile. It shows how the Gentile got saved, how God dealt with them, and how in the New Testament it has come to Christ, and Christ is the only way. It shows us that the salvation God provided for us is now the only way to get saved. It brings you from that mindset of chapter 1 of Israel to where we are at. In chapter 7, as we come through there, you find out we as Christians are set free from the law. The law has no more dominion over us. Chapter 8 brings us up to the two adoptions in the Bible. The first adoption is the day

you got saved. The second adoption is going to take place at the rapture of the church when Jesus Christ comes to take His bride.

In the last chapters of the book, chapter 12 through 16, here again, I know I skipped 9, 10, 11; I will be back in a second. From chapter 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, we see how, once we are a child of God, how we are to look at things in life and in the world. Chapter 12 tells us and shows us what our relationship should be to other people, and there you find Romans chapter 12, verses 1 and 2, that we are to be a living sacrifice. Chapter 13 shows us how as New Testament Christians, saved, born-again, washed in the blood, what our relationship should be to our government. Chapter 14 and 15, we have two chapters on this because this is where most people struggle. It shows us what our relationship should be to other Christians. In chapter 16, he closes out the letter, and he warns us that we are to look for people who want to divide the body of Christ and the church.

➤ God is Going to Restore the Nation of Israel – Romans Chapters 9-11

But in the middle of the book, chapter 9, 10, and 11, he switches gears, and God shows us what we referred to last week in Psalms 22:22-28, the fact that God is going to restore the nation of Israel. There is a teaching out today that God is finished with the nation of Israel. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that God is finished with Israel because they think they have taken the place of Israel. The Jehovah Witnesses and the Mormons, they all reject it because they think they have taken their place. You are going to find a lot of neo-evangelical churches out there; they are so blinded when it comes to truth, they do not even know where Israel fits into it. Yet **God is going to restore His people Israel at the second coming of Christ and then put them back into a land.**

Last week, on Psalms 22, when He was on the cross, He is making a reference to that. That was on His heart because He loves the nation of Israel. Hence, in Luke 23:34, when He is hanging on the cross, He looks up and says:

*34. Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Luke 23:34*

He is understanding that Israel is acting under the influence of Satan, under the influence of the false Roman religion and government. They are taking the very Messiah that God gave them that was prophesied in the Old Testament, but they have been blinded. So, on the cross as He is hanging there, He is making that reference. You do not get it in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; you get it here. He is saying He is going to restore the nation of Israel.

In chapter 9, we begin to see and understand, as he goes into great detail why Israel rejected Him. He tells us why Israel rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the mess they got into. In chapter 9, you get everything you need to know. Why Israel at the first coming of Christ crucified Him. Then we go into chapter 10. Remember how I told you that everything God does is a transition? Well, here it is chapter 9 is Israel's rejection; 10 is the transition now into the church age. When you win somebody to Christ, you take them to Romans chapter 10.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9

In Romans 10, it is called the Romans Road. So, we see the transition from chapter 9. God is showing us through the book of Romans as we come up to chapter 8, we get all of that doctrine. Then He is going to show us 9, 10, and 11 how He is looking at Israel. He shows you in chapter 9 how Israel rejected. He shows you in chapter 10 how it went to the Gentiles. You know what happened in chapter 11. You know what that chapter is? The greatest chapter in the New Testament on God restoring the nation of Israel back to Himself. Incredible. Chapter 11 will show us God restoring the Jew and also this will be one of the seven mysteries in the Bible.

I told you Thursday night, there are seven mysteries that are given to the church. Everything in Christianity, any major doctrine, is wound up in those seven mysteries. You have people today who do not think the rapture is going to happen anymore. You have people today that think that God is all finished with the Jew. You have people today that think Trump is the Antichrist. All three of those are part of the seven mysteries. When you lay out those seven mysteries, you do not have any problem with understanding these. The problem is people do not get into the Bible anymore, or they reject the Bible, and when you reject the Bible, then you lose truth.

Look at Romans chapter 11, verses 25 through 29. I know I told you to go to Psalms 23, but we will get there in a minute, maybe. Now this is the greatest passage in all of the Bible that explains how God sees the nation of Israel. Why did He put it in Romans? Because He wants us, as we come through everything else that God is doing in the New Testament for the church to understand, He also wants us to understand Israel, so we do not become anti-Semitic as the world has today. This will be Israel in God's mind in Psalms 22. He is talking to the church, me and you; those in Rome.

25. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

*26. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **(this is the second coming)***

27. For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

28. As concerning the gospel.....

He just said I am going to restore them, and I want you, the church, to understand that. But also understand this, for the gospel's sake,... look at it, verse 28.

28. As concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

29. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:25-29

You know what He is saying? He says, right now, because of the state that Israel is in concerning the gospel, they are an enemy to the gospel. They are an enemy to New Testament Christianity. He is saying to the church, you better understand this because they are My people, and I am going to restore them, and I am not done with them, and you better get it. Right now, they may be your enemies, but you better not be theirs.

Now how do you do that? You understand what I just gave you. Then He says, "*The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*" I have had people ask the question, "Oh, Brother Bob, you mean Israel gets forgiveness without even asking forgiveness for it?" That is not what repentance means. Here again, you show your stupidity when it comes to the level of the Bible. Repentance is not about you getting right. Repentance is not about salvation. Repentance means you are going this way, and when you repent, you go another direction. What He is saying here is God made a covenant with the nation of Israel way back in Genesis, and He is not going to repent of that covenant. He is not going to move another direction. He is going to restore them based on the covenant. Romans is an incredible book; it shows us exactly what God is doing.

I showed you then that the second thing on His mind was you and me, the church, and that will be Psalms 22:24-31. That is the seed that is going to declare His glory and righteousness to a people that need to be born again. So it is important for you to understand that on the cross, as we finished it up last week in Psalms 22, **He has two things on His mind.** You do not get it out of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Most of God's people never get it in any way, shape, or form. He is thinking of His people Israel, and He is thinking of the church, and He is dying for both. **He is dying for one to be born again at the second coming of Christ, and He is dying for you and me to be born again when you got presented the gospel of Jesus Christ and trusted in Him as your own personal Savior.**

III. Psalms 23 Introduction

Today is Psalms 23. **Here we see a great example of how the Bible will have a historical application, a doctrinal application, and a spiritual application.** You hear me say that a lot. I have showed you before that number three in your Bible is the number of completion. Now maybe you are not there today; I was not there when I was your age. But if I can do it, anybody can do it. At some point in your life, you are going to have to get to the place where you can look at any passage in the Bible, any verse in the Bible, any book in the Bible, and you immediately understand what the historical application is, what the doctrinal application is, and what the spiritual application is. I told you before, three is the number of completion. **You will never have a complete understanding of the Word of God until you can do those three.** Anything other than that, it will be incomplete. My goal here in everything I do is to try to get you there. The problem is not going to be me giving it to you. The problem is going to be you doing what you need to do with it. But this is a great example. I love places like this where I can show you and illustrate how it is. There are some tough places to find, believe me, but there are also some very easy places, and when we come across an easy one, this is something that everybody here can get if you want to. I will show you in this passage how easy it is, and we will walk it through. We will not get through it all today, but we will get through enough of it, so I want you to see that.

❖ Psalms 23 - Historically

First off, let us look at it historically. This will be a Psalm of David. This is one of David's Psalms. David writes a number of the Psalms by name; they are all listed up there, a Psalm of David. He probably wrote a lot of the anonymous ones too, but this will be a Psalm of David. Historically, David is praying this Psalm to God as he goes through his struggles in life. David will be one of the greatest character studies that any child of God can take and study their life through his life. **It will show you two great issues that we all face** when you study David's life, among many other things. **First off, it will show us our struggles.** We are all going to make mistakes in life, every one of us, and David made his mistakes. When he is quoting Psalms 23, he is in the middle of some deep struggles in his life. So that is the first thing it will show us. **The second thing it will show us is that the Word of God is the way to fix those struggles and get us past them.**

David's love for the Word of God is unprecedented in the Bible. He is a man that at the end of his life, and in the book of Acts, God said that he was a man after My own heart. You know what that heart was? That heart was the Word of God. And yet when you study David's life, he makes some really bad choices. We will get to that in a little bit. Yet he is a picture of New Testament Christianity. Did you know that one of the things that makes him really a stand-out example for our Christian life is that David is the only man in the Bible and his family after him who got something that no one else in the Old Testament got? He got what is called in Acts 13:34, and other places in the Old Testament, the sure mercies of David.

*34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, **I will give you the sure mercies of David.** Acts 13:34*

You ask your pastor what are the sure mercies of David. Ask the average Christian; they do not know. The sure mercies of David. David is the only one who got it, and it was a promise to him and his family down the line that they would be sure to get the mercy of God, all going back to David's love and relationship with the Word of God. It had nothing to do with the mistakes that he made. You know what that is a picture of? That is Old Testament eternal security, but also a picture of what you and I got the day we got saved. David is the only one who got it. What an incredible example that is for you and for me to study that and see what comes from that. No matter how far David got from God, God could always get him back, and it was based on the Word of God that he had in his heart.

I do not know how perceptive you are here this morning, but I just gave you a great principle in dealing with people. People are going to come in all shapes and sizes with all kinds of problems. Fundamentally, you are going to have two kinds of people. You are going to have people, saved people who were once in church, once in the Bible, got a good foundation in the Word of God, and then got upside down with something, and now they are out of fellowship, they are now out of church. Then you are going to have the other Christian type who went to church, never got anything in the Bible, never grew in the Bible, never got any foundation in the Bible at all. They are saved, but that is as far as it ever went. They get messed up and go into the world, and you have to deal with them.

I am going to tell you a secret. It is always easier, based on the example of David, to get somebody back that is out in the world when they have a foundation of depth in the Word of God. God has something to work with. If you are going to try to get somebody right with God, do not think it is going to be because of you. God may use you as the tool, but do not think for a minute that you are going to do it. **You know why some of them make it and some of them do not?** Because the ones that make it have some kind of substance already in their life in the Word of God, and God just uses you to work with them on what they have already built in their life to bring them back, like David. The other one, there is nothing there, nothing to work with. That is why they never make it.

I have had people in my ministry all my life, people that were in this church that some of you have worked with, and that is their problem. I am not saying they are bad people. I am just saying they are worthless people when it comes to trying to get them back to God. They will put everything in the world in front of God, and you are going to try to overcome that. You are not going to do it with your good looks. You are not going to do it with your savory voice. You are not going to do it with all the Bible principles you know because they have nothing to work with. You take somebody that had a good foundation in the Word of God like David, God had something to work with. Saul, God had nothing to work with. See, it is right there. One loved the Word of God, that is David, he got the key of David. The other cared nothing about it, and that is Saul, and the Bible says that God took his mercy away from Saul.

❖ Psalms 23 - Inspirationally

Let us look at it inspirationally for you and for me. You see, that is what you do. The historical is easy, and here is how it works for you. Once you know the story in the Bible historically, and you know that David is a type of a Christian, you and me, then you can see the things that he goes through, how they line up to the things that we go through. We see that David made mistakes, we are going to make mistakes. When you understand the sure mercies of David, that is a picture of eternal security. You can begin to make it into the spiritual application, the inspirational for you and for me. The doctrinal, we will get to that next week, but I want you to see how easy this is. Let's read it. Psalms 23:1-6

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
- 2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*
- 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
- 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- 5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
- 6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Psalms 23 is one of the most recited passages for people in all the Bible and all the world. It seems like the religious world will take something that is religious and try to make it into something that it is not. Catholics have their prayer; they get into a jam, they say, "Hail Mary, Mother of God, blessed be the fruit of thy womb, Jesus," and all that stuff. They go through that. Protestants, on the other hand, will take things like this. I always look at this as kind of like taking a prayer and canning it for certain situations. I call this the Laodicean canned prayer.

I remember back in World War II, a troop ship got torpedoed by the Nazi U-boats, and there were three chaplains on that ship. This is a true story, one was a Catholic, one was a Protestant, and one was Jewish. There was a lot of confusion, and so the three chaplains gave away their life vests to sailors that did not have one, which is the Christian thing to do. I would not have done it, but they did. I cannot remember where this is, but there is a statue someplace of these three chaplains standing on the deck as the ship goes down. They are all drowned. The last thing that anybody said was that the Catholic was praying, "Hail Mary, Mother of God, blessed be the fruit of thy womb, Jesus," or whatever. The Protestant was, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." The Catholic is twiddling his beads. The Protestant is this. The Jewish guy, I do not know what he is saying, he probably wanted a bagel with cream cheese, I don't know. But all three of them are doing their canned prayers, and this statue shows them standing there as the ship goes down, locked arms, and they all went to hell together because none of those things will save you.

But that is the mindset. When you watch a movie someplace, I see it all the time. Some guy on a battlefield gets his chest blown out, he dies, and the chaplain comes up and he says, "My son," he is holding his hand, he says, "Repeat after me, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.'" And the guy dies. Now that guy thinks that that is the pathway to get to heaven. You see it in the movies all the time.

But the Christian world does the same thing. You are dying, you are in a plane going down, and you are over there going "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want..... What is the rest of that? Oh, I have got to remember what it is before we crash!"

That is not what it is designed for. I am going to show you today what it is designed for. If you are going down in a plane crash, if your ship is sinking, you do not need to recite any prayer. You need to be telling everybody around you how to get to heaven. It is a great, great, thing to understand. Now if you want to use this as a prayer, that is fine, but at least you need to understand it. For this prayer, the way we are going to break it down, every prayer has petitions in it. **A petition is a different section of your prayer.** You pray to the Lord in the morning, and you pray for a good day, and then you change to something else, that is another petition. Then you pray for so-and-so, that is another petition. You get out your prayer list and you go through that, that is another petition. Prayers always have petitions to them, and in this prayer here, David prayed. If you want to pray it, I do not care. It has 11, and I want to show you these 11 that you need to understand because you do not want to get caught in the Laodicean mindset of Christianity thinking that this is some kind of prayer that when you get into a tough spot you say this prayer. This prayer was never designed for you to pray in the first place, but it was designed

to show you, through these 11 petitions, what He is going to do for you. You do not need to pray it, you need to study it.

IV. Psalms 23 - Eleven Petitions

❖ Petition 1: *The Lord is my shepherd..... (Verse 1)*

The standard teaching will be that Jesus is the shepherd, and I am the sheep. That will be based on John 10:11 and that would be true.

11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:11

In many non-biblical churches today, you will find the teaching and the idea that the pastor will be the shepherd, and the people there will be the sheep, and that is not true. There is no place in Paul's writing where any pastor is ever called a shepherd. I am sorry, you want to make that up. It is because you got it someplace else, but you did not get it out of the Bible. There is only one shepherd who has a flock, that will be Jesus Christ, and the flock will be the body of Christ. But if you know anything about shepherding and sheep, you know that the shepherd has the flock, but he cannot be everywhere where the flock needs to be, so he gets himself four, five, six, whatever how big the flock is, sheepdogs, and the sheepdogs do for the shepherd what the shepherd cannot do. They protect the flock.

A study of sheep will be an understanding of why they definitely need a sheepdog. Sheep are the dumbest animals that God ever made. They get lost very easily. Wild animals will scare them and scatter them very easily. They wander away, and they are totally dependent on the shepherd and the sheepdog. They are always looking, going someplace else. We say, "The grass is greener on the other side." I heard a famous preacher say one time, "Yeah, you think the grass is greener on the other side, but wait till you see the water bill?" And that is so true. But that is where they are at; they get lost very easily, and the sheepdog will protect them and keep them with the flock. So the pastor is not a shepherd; he is a sheepdog.

Years ago, one the highlights of my life is I had a boy that was in a church out in Montana, and Mel and I both went out, and we preached a Bible conference for him. Montana is an incredible place and during the day, they took us all out to a ranch. When you think of a farm or a ranch, you are thinking of maybe a hundred, two hundred, three hundred, four hundred acres. This ranch, they had animals all over it, and when you go from the ranch house, it was a two-day ride on a horse to get to the other side of the ranch. This thing was huge, unbelievably huge, and the cattle were all over. You get up in the morning and you look up, I do not know, a half a mile up on the side of the mountain up there, you would see through a pair of binoculars for 30, 40, 50, 60, 100 elk just grazing up there. It is incredible. Well, around the farmhouse, he raised sheep and cattle too, but the funnest time of my life was watching those sheep and watching those sheepdogs. It was the greatest experience. I learned more about the ministry and what my job was, not as a shepherd, but as a sheepdog. I am talking to this old farmer here, and he was a great guy, loved the Lord. I am sitting on the back of the wagon, and the horse is just walking around.

He is kicking off bales of hay, and I am looking around and see that there might be maybe a hundred sheep out there, and they are all in a nice big circle. I said, "I cannot believe how this all works together." And he says, "Yeah, Brother Bob," he says, "and I told you sheep are the dumbest animals, they will get lost as soon as anything, and then some wild animal will pick them off, and that is why we have the sheepdogs out there." He says, "I have got four or five sheepdogs," and he says, "I do not even have to watch them, they just, they take care of the flock." And I said, "Well, can you tell me something about sheep?" And he said, "Well, you always know when a sheep gets sick because when a sheep gets sick, they start to pull away from the rest of the flock, and that is when they get into trouble and that is where the dogs come in. You see that sheepdog over there? Best sheepdog I ever had. When that happens, then my sheepdog goes after that lost sheep that is separated."

➤ The Lord is the Shepherd, and the Pastor is the Sheepdog

I watched them work. They are incredible. The sheep were all in a circle there grazing, and the dogs, I do not know how they positioned themselves, one here, one here, one here, and they are laying there watching the flock. They consistently watch the flock, and when a sheep gets out of position, I watched it. He said, "Now watch that dog, he will do three things. The first thing he will go over to that sheep, and he will get in front of where the sheep is going and he will bark directly at him. If that does not work, he will bark and he will gently nudge them a little bit. If that does not work, he will bark and then he will nip at his heels to get him go back to the flock." Oh man, I thought of Proverbs 27:23 for a pastor:

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. Proverbs 27:23

I am thinking to myself, that is incredible, Boy, if that is not just like God's people. I have seen God's people, they get sick spiritually, they get sin in their life. The first thing they do, they separate from the flock, quit coming to church. They do the same thing as sheepdogs. And the pastor who is looking after God's flock, he goes after them, and through his preaching, he does a little barking, he does a little nudging, sometimes you have to do a little nipping. The Lord may be the shepherd, but He has His sheepdogs. In the Old Testament, it was the prophets; in the New Testament, it is the pastors.

I will tell you something else he told me about sheep. I never thought about this. He said, "You see how full and furry those sheep are? Right now, they are about three weeks away from us coming in and shearing the sheep and taking all the wool off of them." I thought to myself, wow, if that is not Romans chapter 12:1-2.

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1-2

The sheep gives his wool back to the shepherd. That is a living sacrifice that we ought to be making to God. It was incredible the way it all laid itself out. I looked at that, and I thought to myself, that is exactly what God did for me. The shepherd takes the wool and he makes clothing

out of the wool, and then he gives it to people who have no clothes. That is Isaiah 61:10, it is called the garments of salvation:

61. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

When you make your life a living sacrifice and you give back to God whatever God has given you, you recognize that and give it back to God. Just like the guy takes the wool and makes something for somebody that does not have it. God takes what you give and gives it to somebody else who does not have it. That is what a living sacrifice is. When Adam sinned, he was naked, and the Bible tells us that God made something innocent die. I guarantee it was a sheep, and He covered Adam and Eve's nakedness with a garment of salvation of something that was innocent and shed its blood that would cover Adam's nakedness. That sheep in type gives its wool. The wool goes to the manufacturer, he makes it into whatever, and he produces clothing from it, and then somebody else gets the benefit of the sacrifice the sheep makes.

Today who is getting the sacrifice that you have made for somebody else to have something that you have but they do not have? You see, this is the inspirational application. This has nothing to do with Israel, has nothing to do with David. Our lives are to be a living sacrifice. We ought to be giving back to the shepherd so that he can take and make garments of salvation for those that do not have it. We just sent a ton of books up to the Boston Church. I send discipleship stuff out all the time. You know what that is? That is this church being a living sacrifice of giving people out there what they do not have that they need, willingly, based on what God has given us.

❖ *Petition 2: I Shall Not Want... (Verse 1)*

This will be the New Testament principle and promise found in Philippians 4:19:

19. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

I talk a lot about balance because the Bible says in Proverbs 11:1:

11. A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight. Proverbs 11:1

I try to show you about balance in the Christian life. But you know what it comes down to? The real balance in our lives will be the balance between what we need and what we want. It is just that simple. I do not want to say all wants are bad. Somebody says, "Well, I want to go to Florida for my vacation." You earned it, praise the Lord, I hope you have a good time. Somebody says, "I am going to get a dog, but I want this kind of dog." Pick it, it is okay. "I want this kind of car." You have a right, have a good time, enjoy it. Nothing is wrong with that. Some wants are absolutely okay. Somebody says, "You know, I want to go deer hunting this fall." Praise the Lord, you deserve it, go get away, do not shoot yourself or somebody else. Somebody says, "I want a new dress." Okay. The problem is we get it out of balance, understanding there are some things that we may want, but there are some things that you do not need, and that is the balance. I cannot tell you what that is.

I knew a guy one time, he had, he had to have everything better than everybody else did, and you have all met people like this. Money was his god. He would always brag about how much money he made. Every time I saw him, he would have something new to brag about. He spent thousands and thousands of dollars on the wants of life and never one time that I have known him has he ever did anything for God, it was all about himself. Now here is how simple it works: "I shall not want." The balance! I am not telling you that you cannot have some wants, I am not saying that. Here is how it works: balancing the needs versus wants will start with us seeing that God met my biggest need when He saved me, and now all my wants need to be in respect to His fulfilling my need to be saved and balance my wants through the need that He fulfilled. That is how it works. That will keep you in balance.

❖ *Petition 3: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.... (Verse 2)*

I like this. Once you and I got saved, there are some natural things that come after we get saved that just do not come naturally. There are some things that God has to make us do. When you get saved and you start to serve the Lord, there are things that you bump up against and you say, "Well, I am not sure I want," and God has to make you. The lying down in green pastures is resting at what God has given you. As sheep, we have a tendency to wander off. We get impatient. We think the grass is greener on the other side of the hill. I would say the key to Christian maturity and the Christian life is simply learning to rest in what God has given us. That does not mean you cannot have some wants. It does not mean you will not have some needs, but you balance it out, and He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. The things that we go through in life in time will show you and make you lie down in that green pasture. Focus on what we have, not what we do not have.

6. But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Timothy 6:6

❖ *Petition 4: He leadeth me beside the still waters.... (Verse 2)*

Now that is a great principle and also a great promise. When you lie down in green pastures and rest in the Lord as you follow His leading, you will always have still waters. Because when the storms of life come, He is the only one who can still the water and stop the storm. A great example of that is over in Mark 4:35-41.

35. And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. Mark 4:35-41

38. *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

39. *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

40. *And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

41. *And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

The Bible says that He puts them into a little ship, and Jesus is in the back, and He takes a nap. He gets a pillow, lays back in the stern of the ship, He goes fast asleep, and a great storm came up. They are all scared to death! They wake Him up, and they are all terrified of the storm, and He just simply says, "Peace, be still," and the storm was gone. I learned a great lesson from that. If Jesus can fall asleep in the back of a boat on a pillow while the storm is going on, we should be able to also. You know what the key is? Resting, lying down in the green pastures.

❖ Petition 5: He restoreth my soul.... (Verse 3)

That is the day God saved me, and I told you this before, I will never get over that day. The key to understanding it is when Adam fell, sin passed upon all men:

12. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Romans 5:12

And now all have sinned and come short of the glory of God:

23. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23

Man lost the image of God, Jesus Christ. Adam was created with that image; he lost it through sin. Now we lose it. But just as God covered Adam and Eve's nakedness and provided them a garment of salvation, Genesis 3:21:

3. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

He sent His Son down, who was the Lamb of God. He died on that cross, and through His death on the cross, He restores my soul. But it doesn't just say He restores my soul; it says He restores my soul for His name's sake. He saved you for His name, not yours. He saved you for His work, not yours, to bring glory to His name, not ours.

❖ *Petition 6: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,,,, (Verse 4)*

Here again, one of the great promises in the Bible. Inspirationally, you can see now what a waste it is just to verbalize it as some goofy little prayer. When you put these petitions together, you see the impact of the inspirational application. I hear this all the time, and I totally get it, and I do not want to rain on your parade. Every Christian I have met wants the rapture to come to get us out of this world that we are in. They want the rapture to come to get us out of death and dying. I understand that. But I also want to tell you this, and I have noticed this in my 76 years, we do not get to choose how we die, unless you shoot yourself, and I do not recommend that.

I have heard over the years some of the great preachers when they get around and they talk about how they want to go out. Guy says, well, I want to go out with my boots on. I want to go out preaching from the pulpit, guns blazing. I want to preach the Word of God. And I like that, and I understand that. But none of them died that way. They all died in a hospital bed with cancer, some disease. You see, "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*" That is not a promise of how we die, but rather a promise when we die. I do not think for a moment that the rapture is such a glorious event, which it is, and death is such a bummer. I just do not believe that.

None of us want to think about dying. Let me tell you something, the older you get, the more you think about it. I mean, I think about it, and I do not have any death wish. But I get to thinking here I am, I am preaching, I am 76 years old. If I have another 20 years, I will be 96. Can anybody imagine me at 96? Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15, verse 55:

55. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1 Corinthians 15:55

He says, death hath no sting. I think that is the thing, nobody wants to die because we are afraid of the sting of death. But he said, death hath no sting. We do not want to go to the grave, but Paul said, *O grave, where is thy victory?* The grave has no victory over us anymore. He said in 1 Corinthians 15:26 that the last enemy we had was death:

26. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:26

And then he said in 1 Corinthians 15:54, that death has been swallowed up in victory:

54. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:54

1 Corinthians 15:57 says:

57.. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

That victory is the victory over death. I know we are in the Laodicean church age. I know everything is upside down when it comes to the Bible, God, and Christianity. I get it. I take everything with a grain of salt, but I will check a lot of boxes. I will not say anything, will not do

anything, will not affect anything. I just make a mental note of it. It always keeps it in perspective of where I am at in this putrid Christianity.

Did you ever notice, this is not a criticism, just an observation, did you ever notice at a Christian funeral that it is always a celebration of life? Now I get it, I do not have a problem with it, I just check the box. But you realize the truth is, based on the Bible, there is a celebration when a child of God goes home to be with the Lord. I get the reason why you have to have a celebration of life. I have been to a lot of funerals, and I am not judging anybody, but I believe if you are truly saved, there has to be evidence of that salvation. You cannot be saved, care nothing about God, drink yourself into the grave or dope yourself into the grave. Live a life without God and hate God and everything about God. I have seen those lifestyles, and then what happens? The person dies.

Now I understand what I am saying, maybe you will not, I get that, I will give you that, but I understand it. You want that person to go to heaven so desperately, even though they are probably not, you convince yourself that they are saved because for you they have to be saved, even though they are probably not. I have been to funerals where the guy hated the Bible, he hated Christianity, he hated everything, and he winds up dead. I watched a family up there, "Well, he was a Christian and he is in heaven today." That is because you need him to be there. So you know what you get at his funeral? A celebration of his life. You know why you do that? Because you could not celebrate his death in Christ Jesus for a million dollars because it is not there. You know what the Bible says? The Bible says in Psalms 116:15:

15. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalms 116:15

How come it is not at the funerals? If I die before the rapture comes, please do not have a celebration of my life. You celebrate what God did through my death and know that I am home to be with the Lord. I get it, I totally understand it, "celebration of life," and that is because there is nothing to celebrate. See, you want them to be saved because you make it up for your benefit, but the truth of the matter is, if you really thought that we would have a celebration of them going home to be with the Lord.

Would anyone like to say anything about Sister Susie or Brother John? Yeah, Pastor, I want to say something, he won me to Christ, she won me to Christ. I would be in hell today if it was not for them. They gave me the hope and praise the Lord. They went home to be with the Lord to get their just reward, but I would not be saved today if it was not for that person. See, that is the celebration of a person's death. But we do not have that, do we? Christianity, in my view, most of it is a joke. Oh, we have to pretend. Oh, they love God. Oh, they love this. Oh, yes, they are saved, they are on their way to heaven. Yeah, and their whole life they did not do one thing for God. But I get it, just check the box. You have to believe that because you would go nuts if you didn't.

Psalms 23:4, "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*" Here it is. This is what the celebration in a person that is a Christian's death should be. I am not fighting it, put up all the pictures, the ones of them being a baby, being here, being there, praise the Lord, that is wonderful, I love looking at them. But let us not forget the victory in death. The

reason why we do not want to talk about the victory in death is because we have trumped up that they were saved, and the reality in your heart, you know it, there is no victory for them in death, just death.

When we go to heaven to be with the Lord, here is the victory, here is why it is precious in the sight of the Lord, the death of His saints. This is why death has no sting. This is why death is swallowed up in victory. This is where we shout because this dear saint of God went home to be with the Lord, and because we understand death, we know that a child of God never dies. A child of God just walks through the shadow of death to the presence of the Lord.

❖ Petition 7: *Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.... (Verse 4)*

I want you to get this. Comfort for a child of God. Where is the comfort of the Lord? Well, let me show it to you in one of the greatest inspirational passages you are going to find. Now get this, **my comfort for me as a Christian will be found in just two things.** Again, 99% of God's people have no clue. **It is found in thy rod and in thy staff.** Read it.

1.) Thy Staff

You see, the staff will be the leading of God in my life. Back in the book of Exodus chapter 12, that staff helps with your walk. It helps you steady your walk. When Israel was leaving Egypt, a type of the world, and they ate the Passover, picture you and me getting saved, and now they are going to follow the leading of God to the Promised Land. They are told in Exodus 12:11:

*11. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and **your staff in your hand**; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover. Exodus 12:11*

What that staff does, that staff leads me. I am comforted in the fact that the staff that I have in my hand that God gave me to lead me through life, every decision I have to make in life will be a principle and a promise in here to lead me through it.

2.) Thy Rod

Where the staff will lead me, the rod will keep me. It is God's hand of chastisement in my life. Understanding God's rod in my life will always keep me and bring me back to God. Hebrews chapter 12 verses 10-11:

10. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

The Christian life and the comfort in it fall in two categories: God leading you with the staff and God keeping you and bringing you back with the rod.

❖ Petition 8: *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.... (Verse 5)*

If you have not figured this out yet, and many of you have who work with me in ministry, you will in time. Being a Bible-believing Christian, building a Bible-believing church, and operating a Bible-based ministry, you are going to have some enemies. The world will hate you, and God's people sometimes will hate you. We saw it at the crucifixion. We saw the unsaved Romans, and we saw God's people in the nation of Israel both hated Christ. Do not think you will escape that. I always, in a lot of ways, when I look at a man's ministry, and this is not entirely the way to do it, but it is a part of it, I always like to judge a man's ministry not by how many people love him, but how many people really hate him. That shows you that something is getting done. I look at Ruckman, he is dead but home with the Lord now, but if you went and googled his name, and you find 80, 90, 100 pages of people that hated him. J. Frank Norris was the same way. How about Martin Luther? Martin Luther was the most hated man by the Catholic Church. Billy Sunday, are you kidding me? They made movies about him, tried to destroy him. And of course, Christ Himself.

Let me ask you a question, you have to answer this to yourself: Who hates you today, and who is your enemy because of the Book you stand for, the witness that you are? Anybody? But you have a Rodney King Christianity, "Why can't we all just get along?" Who hates you today because of the stand that you take? I have had people that hated this church, hated my preaching, hated me, and some of God's people kiss their rear end to be their friend. Well, let me tell you something, when you are a friend with my enemy, you are my enemy because I cannot trust you anymore. It is just that simple. You better get it down that when you take a stand, you better be man enough or woman enough to make that stand because there are people that are going to hate you, hate us, hate this church, hate the Bible.

Look at Charlie Kirk, he never did anything wrong, he probably never said a mean thing to anybody, and they killed him, and they hated it, and they are glad he is dead. But take Charlie Kirk out of it, it is not about Charlie Kirk, it is about the Christ that he preached. It is not about me, it is not about you, it is the Book that you stand on. The problem is most of God's people cannot stand on it, so you become buddies with them. Help yourself.

You see, he says, "*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*" The thing that God gives you to keep your enemies from ever having the victory will be the table of fellowship that He has prepared before you. In the Old Testament, it is typified by the ark with the shewbread, the loaves of bread on it, God's table of fellowship. The old song, "*Come and dine, the Master calls, come and dine, you can feast at Jesus' table anytime*". What God gives you out of the Word of God will always take care of what anybody thinks or says about you because it does not matter what they say and think about you. It all matters when you sit down with that Book, and God shows you and gives you something that He does not give anybody else of what He thinks about you. But you know why you cannot do that? Because you do not get in the Book. You are fearful of the enemy. You are afraid of the people who do not like you. So you know what you do? Rodney King, "can't we all just get along?" "**No, we can't.**"

What God gives you out of the Word of God will always rise above what people think about you or say about you. You know the example in the Bible is Joseph and his brethren. His brethren hated him. They wound up going to kill him, but then decided to sell him into Egypt, which was God's plan. But you know what the real reason was? His father, Joseph's father and their father, gave Joseph a coat of many colors. You know what that coat of many colors represents? It represents the love that he had for Joseph and Joseph had for him, and he gave him a coat of many colors that he did not give the other boys. When you get in that Book, God will give you that coat of many colors that He will not give to somebody else, and they will hate you for it.

❖ *Petition 9: Thou anointest my head with oil.... (Verse 5)*

Maybe you can see the progress here. The Lord is my shepherd, salvation. I shall not want, trust. Green pastures, rest. Leadeth me beside still waters, the leading in my life. Restore my soul, He gave me on the right paths of righteousness, that is why you are at Old Path Baptist Church this morning. My victory in and over death. His rod and staff comfort me. The table of my fellowship with Him over the wicked people who hate me. And now, "*Thou anointest my head with oil.*" There is you and me letting this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. There is you and me getting that Book. That is you and me, 1 John 1:7:

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Walking in the light as He is the light, having fellowship one with another. That is you and me. His thoughts become your thoughts. His way becomes your ways. The beginning of you and me getting God's mind in this life will start with you and me getting His mind on the cross. No other way.

❖ *Petition 10: My cup runneth over. (Verse 5)*

This will be the blessings of God in your life. It does not say your cup will be full. Most of God's people, when they look at the Christian life and the cup that you have, it is that old saying, "Well, you know, you put a cup half filled, some people say that cup is half full, the other people say that cup is half empty." That is the way most of God's people look at the Christian life. God does not want you to have a full cup. Some people are satisfied with a full cup. God does not want you to have a full cup. He wants you to have an overflowing cup because when your cup runneth over, it will get on somebody else. When it is just a full cup, you keep it unto yourself.

Nobody's life is perfect. Mine is far from it, and we all face issues that we have to deal with, and we have to work through. Some issues will be of our own doing, some will be what the world will bring to you. This cup will represent the blessings of God. I want to say this to you, and I know you younger kids here probably cannot relate to this, but as you come down to the end of your life and seeing what you have invested in that really counted for the Lord, not something 10, 15, 20 years ago. You know, in the Christian life, it is never how you start. It is never even really through life how you struggle. **But the Christian life is all about how you finish.** A lot of

people start, never finish. A lot of people start, struggle, never finish. Very few start, struggle, and finish. You see this in every person in the Bible that was used of God: Abraham, Joseph, Lot, Moses, David, Saul, Peter, John, Paul. The real test for any child of God will be at the end of your life, is your cup running over? Not is it full? Is it running over? Not only did you get all that God had for you, but you made sure that your cup overflowed, and other people got out of what your cup, what God gave you.

Simply a life filled with the blessings of God and God using you and filling up your cup to the point that it overflows. Right now, you are all on different levels. Some of you, this got a little bit of your cup. Some of your cup is half full. Some of your cup is getting full. **But the goal of every child of God's life should be your cup overflowing.** Your cup coming to the place where it overflows and touches somebody else's life. It is what this church is about. What I want it to be. I teach you the Bible, give you everything. We can take what we have, the cup of this church is overflowing, and it goes to all the other churches. How about your life? You are all on different levels, but your goal should be your cup overflowing.

I look at my own Christian life; it is so simple. The investment God will make in me will only be based on the investment that I will make in Him. Look at our own Christian lives. You come to church when it is convenient, or come to church every Sunday sit and listen, say what a wonderful sermon it was, and then do nothing with it?

Years ago, when I was someplace in Boston, I cannot remember, I preached for four or five days. At the end of the last night, a guy came up to me, he had to be 60, 65 years old. He was weeping, and he put his arm around me, and he said, "Brother Bob, thank you for this week and the messages you preached." And he said, "I just got to say one thing." I said, "What is that?" He says, "I wish that I heard this 40 years ago." He said that like I was going to be okay with that. He said that like that meant something. I just looked at him, put my arm around him, I said, "That was good. Now let me ask you, what are you going to do with it now that you have heard it?" See, that is Christianity.

Fill it up, fill it up, let it just boil over, get into everybody around you. The end of our lives, looking back and saying, "*My cup runneth over.*" You ought to come to the end of your life when you get my age, that you look back, you have things that you feel sorry that you did. You have things that were stupid that you did. You have things that you wish that you would go back and do differently. Everybody has those. But in spite of all that, your cup runneth over, and you can cross your arms across your chest and go home meeting God, knowing everything is just the way it ought to be. That the Lord was your shepherd, and you learned how to balance your wants and your needs. You learned how to lay down and rest on Him. You learned how to put the table that He fellowships in front of you. You learned all those things, and finally at the end of your life, you look back, you see your family, you see the people that God put in your life, you see the people that you made a difference in their lives. It is a difference between dying with a cup that overflows and a cup that is empty. There will be many of God's people stand there with an empty cup.

❖ Petition 11: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Verse 6)*

Two things here: When you follow the Lord, when you rest in Him, two things follow you all the days of your life. One of them will be the goodness of God. The other will be the mercy of God. Those two things will override and overcome some of the stupid things that we do in life because God sees the attitude of heart like David about your love for the Word of God. I would suggest every one of you look behind you and see what is following you today because there lies the Christian life. God gives us goodness and mercy, and we minister those two to others that it keeps growing. It keeps growing, filling the cup, one blessing after the other: this kid, this family, this person, this thing. After 50, 60 years of serving the Lord and letting God use you wherever He wants to use you, your cup runneth over.

Then He says, "*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*" **There is your millennial inheritance.** You see, this whole thing is a progression of the Christian life. One of the greatest Psalms, much better than just the ship sinking, "*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*"

V. Summary

Now you see the 11 petitions that make this alive for every child of God. It starts out, the Lord is my shepherd, and winds up with a full cup overflowing, touching people's lives. That is my goal for every one of you. I have always put everything I have got into everything I do, probably more so the older I get, because I know I have more time behind me than I have in front of me. I know that someday you are going to walk in here, and in that office is going to be an empty chair, and all that will carry this on is what you do with what I am giving you right now. Me, my cup is running over. I am ready to go. If the rapture comes today, praise the Lord. You say, "Well, I have got this, I have got." Not me. You see, the world says that all good things must come to an end. Maybe in your world, not in mine. **When you have a cup that overflows of the blessings of God and what God is doing in your life, who can take that from you? Who can defeat you in that? Who can ruin your day when you just look at the cup that is on the table of fellowship?**

Next week, I am going to bring you through the doctrinal side, and I will show you how you can put all these things together.