

"The Lord"

Introduction:

1. The 23rd Psalm has brought comfort to many throughout the years since David penned these beautiful words of inspiration.
2. These words have been preached from pulpits, studied in family devotions, whispered by sick beds, and embraced at gravesides.
3. Yet, to receive the comfort God intended, one must understand the mighty message of the psalm.

I. The Lord Is the Theme

- A. Someone has said that David uses 115 words to explain the first two.
- B. This psalm is about God.
 1. It describes Him.
 2. It displays His love.
 3. It demonstrates His character.
 4. It details His goodness and grace.
- C. In this way, it serves as a warning against idolatry – creating a false image or understanding of God.
 1. Many view God as limited by the first day of the week and confined to the church's meeting house.
 2. Others see God as a genie in a bottle to be called upon when needed and then put safely away.
 3. Some think of God as an old man in the sky, a kindly grandfather who dispenses wisdom and gifts when his visited.
- D. This is no less idolatry than creating a physical representation of God!
- E. Yet, this kind of God cannot serve as a Good Shepherd.

II. The Lord Is

- A. The name that David uses for the Lord in this psalm is, in fact, His name – YHWH.
- B. This name was revealed to Moses when he was called to lead Israel from bondage in Egypt (Exodus 3:13-14).
- C. God is I AM THAT I AM – the self-existent, eternal one.
- D. He is ever-present; thus, He never changes (Psa. 90:2; Jn. 8:58; Heb. 13:8).
- E. He is the uncaused cause (Psa. 102:25-27).
- F. He is the ungoverned Lord (John 4:24; Psa. 139:7-12).

III. The Lord Is the Shepherd

- A. His leadership is sure because He never changes.
- B. His guidance is trustworthy because He keeps His promises.
- C. His path is right because He rules the world!