

*"Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me All the Days of My Life"*  
*Promise in Pursuit*

Introduction:

1. The psalm has described clearly the character and care of the Shepherd.
  2. Having such a Good Shepherd means that blessings are assured.
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- I. The Promise of God – “Surely”
    - A. It is a statement of absolute, indisputable fact (2 Tim. 2:13; Jam. 1:17).
    - B. The word ‘surely’ can also be translated as “only.”
    - C. This is in contrast with the wicked (cf. Psa. 35:5-6; 140:11; Prov. 13:21).
  
  - II. The Pursuit of God – “Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me”
    - A. “Goodness” refers to things that are moral, beneficial, pleasant, right, or excellent.
    - B. “Mercy” refers to loving kindness joined with faithfulness.
    - C. “Follow” means to run after, chase, or pursue.
    - D. This means that God follows after His sheep with blessings!
      1. Gen. 3:8-9; Exo. 3:1-6; Jonah 1:4; Luke 15:4-7; John 21:7
      2. Psa. 119:176; Isa. 53:6; John 10:15-16, 27-28
    - E. “Goodness supplies our needs, and mercy blots out our sins” (Spurgeon).
      1. “Goodness to provide. Mercy to pardon” (F. B. Meyer).
      2. The Shepherd’s two sheepdogs do not instill fear but comfort and hope.
  
  - III. The Product of God – “Shall Follow Me”
    - A. The blessings of God should not only pursue us but also follow in our wake.
    - B. What influence do I leave behind (Acts 4:36)?
    - C. What legacy will I leave behind (Heb. 11:4; Rev. 14:13)?
  
  - IV. The Persistence of God – “All the Days of My Life”
    - A. God will never give up on us...
    - B. Unless we give up on Him.