

Psalm 23:6

Introduction

6 Surely goodness and loving-kindness
will follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

- Common dream themes. (Understanding Your Dreams by Dr. Daniel R. condron)
 - “I forgot where the class meets.”
 - “I am naked in public.”
 - “I am flying and can’t stop.”
 - “I am being chased.”**
- The question we ask as we study vs.6 is this – Who or what is chasing us?

1. Paraphrase of vs.6a “It is for certain that the good things and the loyal love (f God) will be courting me for as long as I exist.”

- The Hebrew term translated “surely” is a term that is often left untranslated but always suggest an emphasis on the certainty of what is affirmed.
- The Hebrew term translated “loving-kindness” (hesed) is an important concept which combines the duty of a covenant promise (action) and the affection of a heart felt response. Grace has been described as the place where duty and love unite. Marriage might serve as a good example of “hesed.”
- The Hebrew term translated “follow” is often used of a hunter tracking down game or in this context it might best be described as a lover courting the one loved. The idea is one of being chased. In this Psalm, David sees the blessings of the Shepherd Host being offered to him as long as he lives.

2. Paraphrase of vs.6b “And I will be restored to intimate fellowship with God for all eternity.”

- “I will dwell” is the same Hebrew expression translated “He restores” in vs.3. It is the word for “repentance.” The idea is “I will return to and continue in the presence of God” for ever.
- “The house of the Lord” refers to the temple or place where God resides. The idea is one of intimate fellowship.
- Most commentators see this verse as a reference to life after death.

3. The “hound of heaven” is the “Good Shepherd of Psalm 23.

a. He hunts us down with His love not His rod, which (vs.4) gave us comfort not fear.

- The rod and staff of the Shepherd might appear as a threat to the sheep but they are rather viewed as a source of comfort.
- How do we see the Shepherd? Does he motivate with fear or love? Do we really believe that goodness and mercy follow us in this life? The way we tell our story is important.
- My story has three chapters.

AIDS, (Abandonment, Insignificance, Dysfunction, Sadness)

THANKFULNESS, (All the blessings and provisions that I do not deserve)

LESSONS (Things that are a part of my growth)

b. It is the love of God not the wrath of God that restores and secures us.

- **Jn.6:35-40** “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me; and him who comes to Me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me; and this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- **Jn.10:27-29** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”
- **Rom.4:16** “For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”
- **Rom.5:5-10** “the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us, for while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly . . . But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life”
- **Rom.8:28-30** “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He

also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified;" (also read vs.31-39)

- **1 Cor.3:1-3** "and are you not walking like mere men?" These men were addressed as "saints" in chapter one. It is clear that they were regarded as believers in spite of their worldly life style.
- **Eph.1:3-14** "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will," (vs.5)
- **1 Pet.1:4-5** ". . . to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
- Also read - Isa.43:1-3; Isa.54:10; Jer.32:40; Matt.18:12-14; Jn.3:16; Jn.3:36; Jn.5:24; Jn.6:35-40; Jn.6:47; Jn.17:11,12,15; Rom.5:8-10; Rom.8:1; I Cor.1:7-9; I Cor.10:13; II Cor.4:14-17; Eph.4:30; Col.3:3-4; I Thess.5:23-24; II Tim.4:18; Heb.9:12,15; Heb.10:14; Heb.12:28; I Jn.1:3-5; I Jn.2:19,25; I Jn.5:4,11-13,20; Jude 1; Jude 24,25

c. Our security rests with the kind intentions of God in Christ, not in our moral merit or faithful service.

Romans 5:5-10

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be saved by His life**"

Romans 8

"³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God {is} for us, **who {is} against us?** ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

³³ **Who will bring a charge against God's elect?** God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

³⁶ Just as it is written, "*For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*"

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"³¹ What then shall we say to these things?"

Can God take the blessing away?

If God {is} for us, who {is} against us?

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Can Satan take the blessing away?

³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns?

Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Can the world take the blessing away?

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

*Observations from
Romans 8:31-39*

- Paul understood the logical questions that would arise from his teaching in 8:28.
- The promises of Scripture are focused on the coming victory in heaven not on heaven on earth.
- The greatest threats to my soul are not the issues of this life but the next.
- The cross of Christ is the anchor for my faith in God's love for me.
- It is God's work for me not my work for Him that secures me.

Is the believer secure?

- Can a person, through moral failure loose their position in Christ?
NO! (The issue is faith not faithfulness)
- Can a person who once professed faith come to a place of no longer professing faith?
YES! (It happens often)
- Can a person who no longer professes faith in Christ be assured of eternal life?
NO!
- Can a person who professes faith in Christ and is unfaithful in obeying Christ be assured of eternal life?
YES! (If their faith is a trust in Christ as their righteousness.)

4. What do I see chasing me?

If we are being chased by God why do we tend to run away?

Do we fear His wrath? Do we doubt His love?