

Passing through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Psalm 23:1

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, Psalm 23:2

He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Psalm 23:5

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6

The Valley of the Shadow of Death

1. We pass through this valley when someone close to us dies.
2. This shadow is cast on us when we become sick or as we approach death.
3. But it is only a shadow for the Christian.

He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:12-13

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. Psalm 23:2-3a

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5b-7

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"— 1 Corinthians 2:9

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **Revelation 21:3***

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **Revelation 21:4***

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

*Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11***

*“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **John 10:14-15***

*That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. **Romans 10:9-10***

*Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. They shall find rest from their labor and their deeds will follow them. **Revelation 14:13***

*But God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. That whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16***

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

*Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. **2 Corinthians 5:1***

*Therefore to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8***