**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD? Read** **Psalm chapter 23**

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Ro. 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Phil. 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Rev. 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Eph. 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matt. 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

**Psalm 23:1-3 (NKJV):** 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (lack)(KJV – be in need)(NIV-be in want). 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures (pastures of tender grass); He leads me beside the still waters (Lit. waters of rest)(NIV – quiet waters). 3 He restores (KJV-brings back) my soul; He leads (NIV-guides) me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

(1) The Lord is to be the shepherd of his people. We see that relationship in many NT Scriptures. (**Matthew 2:6, 26:31; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Peter 5:1-4**)

**Psalm 23:4 (NKJV):** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (ESV-deep darkness), I will fear no evil (NAS-harm); For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

(2) When we truly love the Lord (our Shepherd) we have nothing to fear! (**Rom. 8:34-39; Hebrews 13:6; 1 John 4:17-19**)

**Psalm 23:5 (NKJV):** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over (ESV&NAS-overflows).

(3) The Lord (our Shepherd) provides for His sheep with physical & spiritual nourishment! (**Psalm 19:7-11, 37:25; Matthew 6:33-34; John 4:10-14; Revelation 7:15-17**)

**Psalm 23:6a (NKJV):** Surely goodness and mercy (NIV-love) (NAS-loving kindness) shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

(4) When we follow the Shepherd, our lives will be filled with goodness & mercy. (**Ephesians 2:4-5, 5:8-11; Titus 3:4-7; James 1:17, 3:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3-4, 2:9-10**)

**Psalm 23:6b (NKJV):** Surely goodness and mercy (NIV-love) (NAS-loving kindness) shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

(5) The Lord wants all to be obedient sheep in His flock (His house)! (**Ephesians 2:14-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; Revelation 21:1-4**)

***\*If you are a disciple of Jesus, are you following the Shepherd’s commands every day?*** (**Heb. 13:20-21; 2 Peter 3:14**)

***\*If you are not a disciple of the great Lord and Shepherd consider these passages.***(**John 10:7-10, 15-16; Acts 8:35-39**)

To enter His Flock you need to believe the Shepherd, confess that He is the son of God, repent of your sins, and be immersed in the waters of baptism. That is how one becomes one of His sheep, a Christian, disciple, who follows and obeys the Shepherd in all things. Something to truly rejoice about!

We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you! Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; david.barry@oakridgechurch.com, murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416.

We plan to have a re-airing of this program on Monday, January 16, 2023. Our next live program is planned for February 6, 2023 when we plan to study “**Can One Be in a Denomination and be a Christian?**” We hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**