

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Message
of
Jesus Christ

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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... I Shall Not Want



h! to be able to say, "I shall not want," to say, "I lack nothing, for the One Whom I serve, the One Whom I follow, is the Great Shepherd; He is my Lord, my Savior, my Redeemer, my provider, my protector, my . . ." To know that you lack nothing is to have great confidence in the One Who cares for you, Who loves you, Who provides for you, Who was willing to, and did, lay down His life for you (Ps 84.11). The Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep (Jn 10). Did Jesus not lay down His life for His sheep? How can we question the love and provision, the grace and life, we have in Him Who laid down His life for us?

Is it not He Who said to us,

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith? (Mat 6.25, 26, 30)

How many of us have been discouraged with events in our lives, wondering why there have been turns in our lives that *seemingly* took us where we did not want to go? How many times do we wonder if anyone knows our hurts, our failures, our discouragements, our disappointments? Have you been taken advantage of? Have you been misled by someone you trusted? Have you lost your job and are seeking to find another only to find doors closed?

Lift up your hearts this day and seek the Lord. Walk with the Shepherd as never before, trusting Him with all your heart and with great confidence in Him. Look unto the Shepherd; He will lift you out of the miry clay and set your feet on the King's Highway. All too often we seek *things* and not the Shepherd. When we follow the Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, when we walk with Him and move and have our being in Him, we shall not want; we shall lack nothing.

Will we not know that His grace is sufficient to include His provision for us? Will we not begin resting in Him, knowing He is our provider as the need arises? Does not the scripture give to us that assurance in Psalm 34.10, "The young lions

When we ask in the Name of Jesus, we are asking for His will to be done in us. He loved us enough to die for us; we can trust Him. And, He rose from the dead and lives that we might have eternal life in Him forevermore. He is **The faithful Shepherd.**

Let us **surrender** to His will, **stand** on the promises of His Word, and with **confidence**, approach our Shepherd, **trusting** Him with all our hearts, our lives.

The LORD /is/ nigh unto all them that call upon him, **to all that call upon him in truth.**

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

The LORD preserveth all them that love him . . . (Ps 145.18-20).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

do lack, and suffer hunger but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing”?

The time is upon us when some of us are aware of great devastation that is upon the land and great calamity that destroys a city, destroys a state, destroys a nation (Eph 5.16b). This is a time in which we need to seek the Lord Jesus Christ as never before. We need to come to know with great confidence that “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall **not** want,” that we shall have lack of nothing and begin to “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Pro 3.5).

This is a time we need to trust in the Lord more and more and realize we have nothing – as we shall soon see. This is a time in which all else shall fail. We have too often relied upon ourselves, believing we are good providers and believing that we have planned well for anything that might happen in our lives. We can no longer rely upon our source of income. We cannot rely upon our ability to provide in these days to come – regardless how strong we believe we are or how well we have planned or any ability we believe we may have. This is a time in which we can rely **only** upon the One Who is our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ (Ps 118.8).

“I shall not want” means we have full confidence in the Lord to provide. We need to look at our wants and see if they are for the glory of the Lord, if they are what we need for serving the Lord. We need to look at James 4.3-8 to ensure that our wants are not out of our sinfulness but out of a love for the Lord to serve Him in our lives daily, trusting Him as our Shepherd. Our wants will be in line with His will if we have surrendered our will to the Shepherd. Following the Shepherd means we want what He wants.

When we know that we know with great confidence that the Lord is our Shepherd, what we see and how we see our experiences will be with a grateful heart. We will begin to see how the blessings of the Lord God flow to us from the life-giving fountain. We will begin knowing how rich we are in Christ Jesus. We will see through new eyes how manifold are the mercies of our God, the giver of new life. We will no longer walk with our heads down and our hearts in our feet, but we will walk with our heads turned upward and our hearts pulsating with thanksgiving. We will know that the Lord is not only our Shepherd, but He is King of kings and Lord of lords, the lover of our souls.

Do we not serve the Shepherd Who owns the cattle on a thousand hills? Does He not say, “If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *[is]* mine, and the fulness thereof”? Psalm 50.10-12 tells us that He is the Creator as well as our Redeemer, our Healer, the lover of our souls, our All in all. He is our protector, our provider, our sustainer, our strength, our authority, our anointing, our love, our mercy, our grace. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent; how could we even think that our needs will not be met?

If only we could grasp the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and that He reigns eternally, that He is on the throne! No one, – no, no one, however powerful they

believe themselves to be, will have power to touch any of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ – without the Lord’s knowledge and His allowing it (Job 1).

The Shepherd is with us through it all. Did He not tell Joshua,

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *[is]* with thee whithersoever thou goest (Jos 1.9).

“I shall not want” for anything, for the Lord, Who is my Shepherd, has already made provision for me in every way.

We read the words, “I shall not want,” and think in terms of material things, all too often. Our Shepherd does address that which we need in our lives daily, but there is more, much more.

When we can truly say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want . . .” our souls, our hearts, our minds will be stayed upon Him. We shall not want anything but Him, Jesus Christ, for when He dwells in us and we abide in Him, we have everything.

When Jesus Christ is our Shepherd, we will not turn aside to the enemy and follow after him or his ministers, his followers (II Cor 11.13-15). We will not desire to be a part of this evil, sinful world or a part of those who pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal 1.1-9). We will not desire that which is not of Christ Jesus.

When Jesus Christ is our Shepherd, our hearts will be stayed upon the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Word, the Bible. We will feast upon the Word that we shall be edified, built up in Him, and shall know His ways, desiring that His ways shall be ours, that His thoughts shall be ours.

When we abide in Him and He dwells in us, we shall not lack anything; we shall know what it is to feast at the table of the Lord. We shall know His strength to go forward in these days, to go forth in His joy and His peace with great confidence in Him. When Christ dwells in us and we in Him, we shall want nothing. When the Lord Jesus Christ dwells in us, what more could we want? When we are abiding in Him and He in us, we can say, “**I shall not want.**”

The Lord loves His own very much; He cares for you. Hear the Word in John 10.3: “...he calleth his own sheep by name . . .” He knows you and cares for you. John 10.4 makes it clear that “the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.” Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” (Jn 10.11). He also said, “I am the good shepherd, and know my *[sheep]*, and am known of mine” (Jn 10.14).

He has a plan for your life. He says to His followers:

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *[that]* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you (Jn 15.16).