

*One of a series of devotions based on Psalm 23*

## **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. . .MY CUP OVERFLOWS**

Psalm 23:5 "The LORD is my shepherd. . . my cup overflows;

There are those who believe there is no Gospel in the Old Testament. Where better to direct them than to Psalm 23. Gospel is what God does for us human beings out of His undeserved love. The one doing for the sheep is the LORD. Because of the Shepherd's actions the sheep "lack nothing, are led to lush pastures, have their thirst quenched from the quiet (still) waters, fear no evil are guests at His banquet table, etc."

The last words of verse 5, "my cup overflows" are like placing a big, bold exclamation mark! Your God, in His grace and mercy, gives you all you need for your body and soul. He provides it in such abundance that literally your cup overflows.

Think how many times in your life you have thought of deficiencies in your life. These thoughts and words are Satan's to divert your eyes and heart away from seeing and acknowledging God's blessings. He does to you what he did to Adam and Eve at the tree. He convinced them that they had not received all God's blessings they deserved.

A man I know, when asked how he was doing or how his day was going would always answer, "better than I deserve." He would usually add, "God gives me all that I need. How can I complain?" This man, in his humble, faith filled words, captured Luther's explanation to the First Article, ". . . He (God) provides all that I need to support this body and life."

Review the first five verses of Psalm 23. While Satan wants you to see your cup as empty or not as full as it should be, Psalm 23 points out just the opposite. Jesus says, "I came that they (My sheep) may have life and have it abundantly. I am the (your) good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:10-11) "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32) Your cup is overflowing because of God's gracious, loving gifts.

Prayer: Thank You LORD, for all You provide me for now and for all eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear LORD beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!  
(LSB 709)