



May 5, 2020

I Have Everything I Need

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. - (Psalm 23:1)

So often our lives are inundated with a message of what we lack. In commercials and advertisements what is communicated is, at the very least, we need one more thing to make us happy. The underlying assumption is that in our current condition our life is incomplete without - "you fill in the blank."

The startling picture the 23rd Psalm communicates is that we lack nothing as long as the Lord is shepherding us. To experience this as a reality in our life, a life that lacks nothing depends upon the presence of God in our lives moment-by-moment. Since God is the source of this type of life we realize it cannot exist apart from him.

This is why it is critically important that what we think about God aligns with what his character is actually like. If there is some discrepancy between the two, we will never be able to make the kind of contact with God that will lead us into confidence, based on experience, in the sufficiency of God to meet our needs.

What keeps us distant from God is that people are generally obsessed with themselves. The cause is usually based on some wound they experienced in the past, which leaves a lasting mark. It does no good to say, "Don't think about yourself." We are locked into it, and turn away from God and towards self in order to secure our own future. From a practical perspective, Paul's analysis proves true, we find ourselves living without hope and without God in the world (Ephesian 2:12).

And yet there is every reason to hope, if we would simply stop looking at ourselves and start looking at God. A place to begin is seeing that God provides for us moment by moment. Living in the past with its, "Why did this happen?" or living in the future with its, "What will happen?" is not reality. The only place we can encounter God is in the present moment, and in encountering God we realize that we have everything we need. It's good to be me, I have everything I need because the Lord journeys with me.

Practice: *Many passages in Scripture show the abundance of real provisions directly from God to us. Print out the linked document and memorize these two beautiful passages from the Old Testament: [Habakkuk 3:16-19](#) and [Psalm 103:1-5](#).*

With the Affection of Christ,