

The Protected Soul: The Lord's Presence Pursues Us Forever!

Cornerstone Community Church – Rev. Jerry Ernst

May 3, 2026 (Psalms 23 series – part #3)

Scripture: Psalm 23:4-6; Psalm 91:1-4

In Psalm 23:1-3, David *speaks about God*. God is David's personal Shepherd, "(2) **He** makes me to lie down...**He** leads me beside... (3) **He** restores my soul."

In Psalm 23:4-6, the pronoun changes to the first person – "(4) **You** are with me; **Your** rod and **your** staff," David *speaks to God*, during a desperate time - "(4) *Yea, though I walk through the valley...*"

*Psalm 91

Psalm 23:5-6 - The Lord's Presence Pursues Us Forever!

1) THE LORD PREPARES A PROTECTIVE PLACE - "(5) *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*"

PREPARE: Shepherds went before their sheep preparing the grazing area high in the mountains. On his hands and knees, the shepherd went through the pasture removing poisonous weeds, sharp objects which caused harm.

- No effort was spared by the Shepherd – to "**prepare a table.**"
- Sheep approaching the "high mountains" - sometimes referred to as "tablelands."

TABLE: In biblical times, a person could not be attacked while eating in another man's tent. If one could reach a "friend's tent" – you were safe at his table! God prepares the table as the enemy is just outside "the tent."

2) THE LORD COVERS US - "(5) ...*You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*"

ANOINTING OIL: It was made of olive oil, Sulphur, and spices. It kept away gnats, flies, and insects. This oil penetrated cuts & bruises on the face of a sheep.

Anointing: (in the Christian tradition) - "**The blessing of the Lord; healing, appointment, or joy of the Lord.**"

The Lord Fills Us Spiritually...

CUP: "The portion – My Life." (Psalm 16:5-6)

OVERFLOWS: God's interaction and protection produce blessing over His sheep.

3) THE LORD'S PRESENCE PURSUES US FOREVER - "(6) *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*"

God's Two Divine Sheepdogs – "(6) ...*goodness and mercy shall follow me*"

- They will circle, herd, tend, and protect us every day!
- These two follow us throughout life and into all eternity.

FOLLOW: "Pursue, chase."

FOREVER: (Hebrew expression): "**length of days.**" *Describes a reality in the present that extends into eternity.

Cornerstone Community Church and Graduates today

Psalm 23 promises...

- 1) God's Peace in life's Meadows (Vs. 1-2)**
- 2) God's Plan for Life's Pathways (Vs. 3)**
- 3) God's Presence in Life's Valleys (Vs. 4)**
- 4) God's Provision on Life's Tableland (Vs. 5)**
- 5) God's Promises for Life's Journey (Vs. 6)**

*Robert J. Morgan, "All to Jesus" devotional – Day 153