

THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR MARCH 2012

Psalm 23:1-2: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet water.

OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

By Evangelist Dennis A. Palma

Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, may we all give You thanks, praise, and bless You Lord, for another divinely inspired message. Lord, thank You for all the undeserved blessings You bestow upon us. Father, may we always remember that all our blessings come from You. Lord, please continue to bless us with Your Divine Presence. Father, please help us to grow in Your Wisdom and understanding. Lord, thank You for keeping us in the palm of Your Loving Hand. Father I ask this prayer in the name of Your Son and our Savior, Christ Jesus.....Amen.

This month's inspired message has to do with Our Good Shepherd. When I say our Good Shepherd, who am I referring too? I am talking about our Savior Jesus Christ. What is the role of a shepherd? The role of a shepherd is to tend, manage and take care of sheep. Sheep are completely dependant on the shepherd for provision, guidance and protection.

The New Testament calls Jesus the *Good Shepherd*. **John 10:11 I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**

Also, the *Great Shepherd* in Hebrews **13:20-21: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His Will and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.** Finally, Jesus is called the *Chief Shepherd* in **1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.**

As the Lord is the Good Shepherd, so we are His sheep---not frightened , passive animals, but obedient followers, *wise enough to follow One* who will lead us in right places and in right ways. When we allow God our shepherd to guide us, we have contentment. When we choose to sin, however, we go our own way and cannot blame God for the environment we create for ourselves. Our shepherd knows the “ green pastures” and “ quiet waters” that will restore us. We will reach these places only by following Him obediently. Rebelling against the Shepherd's leading, is actually against our own best interest. We must remember this the next time that we are tempted to go our own way rather than the Shepherd's way!

Death cast a frightening shadow over us because we are entirely helpless in its presence. We can struggle with other enemies----pain, suffering, disease,-
---injury-----but strength and courage cannot overcome death. Death has and always will have the last say. Only one person can walk with us through death's dark valley and bring us safely to the other side----the God of life, our Shepherd. Because life is so uncertain, we should follow this Shepherd who offers us eternal comfort.

In ancient Near Eastern culture, at a banquet it was customary to anoint a person with fragrant oil. Host, were also expected to protect their guest at all cost just like a shepherd protects his flock. God offers the protection of a host even when enemies surround us. In the end, all believers will dwell with the Lord. God, the perfect Shepherd and host, promises to guide and protect us through life to bring us to His house forever! As a Good Shepherd Jesus interposed Himself between His sheep and deadly danger, and willingly died that the sheep He valued might "have life, and have it to the full."

Because "the earth is the Lord's," all of us should be stewards or caretakers. We should be committed to the proper management of this world and its resources. We are not to become devoted to anything created or act as sole proprietors, however, because this world will pass away. **1 John 2:17** says: **The world and it's desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.**

God is a caring shepherd and is a dependable guide. We must follow God and obey His commands. He is our only hope for security and eternal life. Once we finally pass from the dark side of this world into the Eternal Light of the Lord, our Good Shepherd will guide us from there.

When the Jewish religious leaders surrounded Jesus at the feast of dedication in Jerusalem saying, how long will You keep us in suspense? If you are Christ, tell us plainly. In **John 10:25-30** Jesus said; **"I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in My Father's Name, speak for Me, but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My Hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, He is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's Hand. I and the Father are One."**

If you are one of God's sheep, you should truly appreciate this scripture. When the Lord said, My sheep listen to my voice, you know as a believing Christian, that God's Words are infallible, there is no room for error!

Being part of the Good Shepherd's flock has spiritual advantages. As soon as that little evil voice in our head tries to take command of our thoughts, we will be able to spiritually discern evil thoughts and turn them into righteous thoughts. When we don't have a clue which voice to follow, we don't have a fighting chance to survive the onslaught of Satan's evil snares. The devil loves it when we don't have "The Good Shepherd" to watch over us, we become like lost sheep without a shepherd. The greatest chance Satan has to destroy his prey is when they are separated from the flock! The only way that we can get separated from the Lord's Flock is when, we rely on our own voice, and not **"The Good Shepherd's Voice!"**

Well my brothers and sisters in the Lord Christ Jesus, we all need to take some time and ask ourselves this question! Have I been following the Good Shepherd's voice, or have I been following my own prideful voice?

Because, if we have been following any other voice other than the Good Shepherd's voice, we are on a one way collision course to hell!!!!

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, may we again give You thanks, praise, and bless You Lord for another inspired message. Lord, may we try to remember always that You and only You are our Good Shepherd who watches over His sheep. Also Lord, please direct us through this maze of earthly darkness, Father, please continue to help us better understand Your Voice! Amen.



JESUS CALLING

By Sarah Young

YOU ARE MY BELOVED CHILD. I chose you before the foundations of the world, to walk with Me along paths designed uniquely for you.

Concentrate on keeping in step with Me, instead of trying to anticipate My plans for you. If you trust that My plans are to prosper you and not to harm you, you can relax and enjoy the present moment!

Ephesians 1:4; 13-14 Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 16:19

PROVERBIAL WISDOM FOR MARCH 2012

Proverbs 5:21-23: For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, He examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own folly.



THE MINISTRY'S DAILY PRAYER LIST.

Please join hands with this ministry and pray for; Terry McKinney, Marianne Simons, Bill Schlupp, Clem Litiski Sr, Bob McCormick, Tony Scarangelli, Jimmy Palma and family, Russ Holman, Janet Neil, Christine Palma and family, Greg Dubrois, Johanna Tyson, Dorthy Leary, Greg Achinko, Tony Gregory, Richard Leland, Andrea Arceneaux, Joe Lake Jonathan Baker and family, Ed Messner, Margaret Lipani, Catrina Wilson, Joy Valerie, Patty Palma and family, Gary Wade, Anne Maria Hess, Edward Young, Greg Achinko Sr., Janine Smeltz, Janelle Owens, Alisha Wade and family, Audrey Urban, Denise Laphthrop, Jackie Parker, Cole Brant, and Rose Robinson.

Also a daily prayer for all; the sick, the poor, the homeless, the helpless, The hopeless, the lost souls, the hungry, the lame, the broken hearted, The persecuted, the weary, the restless, the poor in spirit, the anger, The hatred, the violence, the wars, the selfish, the greed, the corruption, The failing economy, the unemployed, our dysfunctional government, etc.

Finally a prayer for; our troops in harms way, and for all the genocide in Syria and other persecuted areas around the world.

Well my brothers and sister in the Lord Christ Jesus, it is my hope that you enjoyed this month's inspired message! Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry. If you would like to read any previous journals or need study tools, go to: **www.makethespiritualconnection.com**

