

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
"The Shepherd & Our Stories"
Psalm 23:3 – Restoration and Guidance for Glory
Drue Warner
7-27-25

The 23rd Psalm

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

**3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.**

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy (lovingkindness) will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

***"He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake."
– Psalm 23:3***

HE RESTORES MY SOUL

Hebrew - "shoob" (to return, bring back)

The word "restore" is one of the most beautiful words in language.

"He restores my soul" is at the very heart of the gospel, and we'll see how. 😊

Synonyms of "Restore"

Renew – Renovate – Regenerate – Resuscitate – Rejuvenate – Revitalize –
Refresh – Revive

Visuals of Restoration

- Bugati toy car, Jordan shoes, House

How does God "restore" our souls?

- **Reconciles**

- *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come! ^[a]The old has gone, the new is here! **All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.**" – 2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

- **Rescues**

- *For **he has rescued us** from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. – Colossians 1:13*

- **Ransoms**

- *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give his life as a ransom for many.**” – Mark 10:45*

- **Redeems**

- *“But when the set time had fully come, **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, **to redeem those under the law**, that we might receive adoption to sonship.” – Galatians 4:4-5*

Results of restoration (from / to):

- enslavement to sin to freedom in Christ
- condemnation to acceptance
- judgment to forgiveness
- guilt to grace
- death to life

Daily restoration:

- Sin is like weeds that continually spring up, spread out, and take over the gardens of our lives.
- **How does God daily restore us?** Restoration happens when those weeds are tended to by the power of the gospel, applied to our hearts, through **the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God** (i.e., God’s “Round Up”).

HE GUIDES ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Paths in Life – 1) Death and destruction 2) Life and righteousness

- **Living by the Flesh or the Spirit**

*“Those who live according to the **flesh** have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the **Spirit** have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.” – Romans 8:5-6*

1. Death and destruction

- *The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.” – Romans 8:7-8*
- *“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” – Proverbs 14:12*

2. Life and righteousness

- *God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.** – 2 Corinthians 5:21*
- *“God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that **you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.** Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 1:27-31*
- *“Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.” - Romans 10:4*

“The first Adam (Romans 5) ushered all of mankind into sin and death by a tree. The second Adam restored mankind into life and righteousness by conquering sin and death on a tree.”

How does God guide us?

- The Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God

FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE

All of life is about promoting God’s glory.

WSC #1 (1646): What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Glory (def): pinnacle of prosperity or achievement, splendor, renown, satisfaction, gratification, perfect happiness

God desires to accumulate as much glory is possible, but not like us. Our desire to attain glory is sinfully selfish, but God’s desire for glory is perfectly selfless

*“If God did not need to create other beings in order to know love and happiness, then why did he do so? Jonathan Edwards argues, in A Dissertation Concerning the End for Which God Created the World, that **“the only reason God would have had for creating us was not to get the cosmic love and joy of relationship (because he already had that) but to share it.”** Edwards shows how it is completely consistent for a triune God—who is “other-oriented” in his very core, who **seeks glory only to give it to others**—to communicate happiness and delight in his own divine perfections and beauty to others.” - Tim Keller (“Go Forward in Love,” May 23)*

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.” - John 17:22

God desires to attain glory in order to share it with us. Isn’t that amazing!?!

FINAL THOUGHTS

God restores our soul and guides us in paths of righteousness because He is good, loving, and generous. These acts of restoration and guidance are His doing (from beginning to end) and we are invited to walk in the path that He has set before us.

How do we attain God's glory? By surrendering ourselves to Christ, and by letting Him guide us by the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God.

God accumulates as much glory as can possibly be accumulated. Because God is God and is perfect in every way, He has every right to retain every ounce of glory attained for Himself. But because God is abundantly kind and loving, and generous, He is perfectly pleased and satisfied to accumulate glory **not only for His name's sake, but also to share it with us!**

And THAT'S Good News!

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? REFLECTION

- Debbie Saenz – Is there anything in your story that connects to this scripture text and/or anything in the sermon message?