

**PSALM 23**

THANKFUL 4 His Guidance

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Open in prayer and read through all of Psalm 23 together.

Today we will focus on vs. 3 - **He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake**

**Will you let the Good Shepherd renew and guide your life?**

- Do you ever feel as if something is holding you back from allowing God to renew and guide you? Do you have any fears about this? Do you find it difficult to give up control?

Let's continue on to see how exactly God renews us.

**How Does Our Good Shepherd Renew Us? He...**

1. Redeems us – In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin, death, and dark powers.
  - **7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 that He richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.** Ephesians 1:7-8 CSB
  - a. Redemption is what is achieved through the atonement of Christ. Think back to last week when we discussed atonement. How was atonement achieved in the Old Testament? (Hint: the ark of the covenant, sacrificial sprinkling of blood on the mercy seat)
  - b. How does Jesus Christ bring about the final atonement?
  - c. What other differences do you see between the atonement of the Old Testament and the atonement we receive in Christ?
  
2. Regenerates us – In Christ, we are no longer spiritually dead. We are alive with His resurrection life.
  - **17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!** 2 Corinthians 5:17 CSB
  - We are in Christ, meaning we have union with Him and the Holy Spirit. We participate in His death and resurrection.
  - a. What does it mean to become a new creation? Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Colossians 3:10.
  - b. Many believe salvation is going from “bad” to “good.” The truth is we go from death to life. Why is this an important distinction?
  
3. Reconciles us – In Christ, we are no longer enemies of God; we are now His friends.
  - **18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.** 2 Corinthians 5:18 CSB
  - a. We now have peace between us and God because of Christ. How, then, do we carry out the ministry of reconciliation?

- b. As we proclaim the gospel, we act as peacemakers, letting the world know they can live at peace with God as well. How can we proclaim the gospel this week?
  - c. Are there any relationships in your life that need to be repaired? How can you begin to reconcile with those you are not at peace with?
4. Makes Us Righteous – In Christ, we are incorporated into His righteousness.
- 21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 CSB
  - Through Christ's death and resurrection, God demonstrated His righteousness by judging sin yet showing mercy to sinners. We now receive a right standing before God, and we receive His righteousness to live out in our everyday lives.
  - a. What are some ways God's righteousness is demonstrated in our lives?

**Will you let the Good Shepherd guide you into living righteously?**

- 3 He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake.  
Psalm 23:3 CSB
- 10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. 11 "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.  
John 10:10-11 CSB
- Often, we fear relinquishing control of our lives. But we have a Good Shepherd who guides us, makes us righteous, and gives abundant life.

**Close in prayer by thanking Him for His renewal and guidance. Pray Psalm 25:4-7 over your group.**