

Our Source of Certainty in Uncertain Times

Psalm 23:1

The Grind of Uncertainty

I have observed that few inner battles are more fierce than the daily grind of uncertainty. No doubt you too have encountered one or more of its many faces as you have struggled with

. . . purpose in pain, job security, financial pressures, physical handicaps, relational snags, and a dozen other confusing puzzles not quickly or easily solved.

It is for the dark hours of uncertainty that
David penned a song we know as Psalm 23.

- Charles Swindoll

I. If we are going to find certainty for uncertain times in Psalm 23, we must learn to see ourselves as we really are before God.

“A sheep is all of the things that we do not want to be. It is defenseless, dependent, and stupid.

“But when David wrote, *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*, he was saying by implication that he was a sheep – he was defenseless, dependent, and foolish.

“You and I might as well admit it: before God, we too are sheep. Yet in the depths of our proud hearts that is a very difficult admission to make.”

- Hadden Robinson

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have
turned—every one—to his own way
(Isaiah 53:6)*

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The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

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God is self-sufficient means that He has no needs.

God is Self-Existent means that He has always existed as God. He is Timeless. He never changes.

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own
and my own know me, just as the Father
knows me and I know the Father; and I lay
down my life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me. I give them eternal life,
and they will never perish, and no one will
snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)*

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The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

“The key thought is this: Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing! No uncertainty should frighten me:

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I shall not lack rest or provision—why? He makes me lie down in green pastures.

I shall not lack peace—why? He leads me beside quiet waters.

I shall not lack restoration or encouragement when I faint, fail, or fall—why? He restores my soul.

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I shall not lack guidance or fellowship—why? He guides me in the paths of righteousness.

I shall not lack courage when my way is dark—why? Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for You are with me.

I shall not lack companionship—why? You are with me.”

- Charles Swindoll

Can you honestly say that you have learned to enjoy your relationship with God and are content with the way He provides for you?

Because the Lord is my shepherd,
I have all I need.

Memorial Day in the United States
A Time to Remember Those Who Died
In Service to their Country and for the Cause of Freedom

<u>Major Wars</u>	<u>Number Who Died</u>
Revolutionary War (1775-1783)	4,435
Civil War: North and South (1861-1865)	620,000
World War I (1917-1918)	116,516
World War II (1941-1945)	405,399
Korean War (1950-1953)	36,574
Vietnam War (1964-1973)	58,220
Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)	383
Iraq War (2003-2011)	4,431
Afghanistan War (2002 – present)	<u>2,353</u>
Total	1,248,301