

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

The Lord Is My Helper. I Will Not Be Afraid.

Week of January 17, 2021 A.D.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." John 10:27-28 Let's talk about that in this lesson.

Read Psalm 23:4

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "This planet (Earth) is the valley of the shadow of death. Our bodies are subject to illness and death. Therefore, it makes no sense to seek a relationship with Christ if Christ is not able to give to us eternal life."
2. Do you have any fears? If so, what are they and why do you have them? If you do not have any fears, why not? Have you ever been comforted by Christ? If so when and how? Please explain your answers.

Read John 12:23-26

3. What does Jesus mean by (a) "loves his life"? and (b) "hates his life"? How will the one who loves his life "lose it"? How will the one who hates his life in this world "keep it for eternal life"? Please explain your answers.
4. What does Jesus mean by (a) "whoever serves me"? and (b) "must follow me"? How can a physically living person (you) be where a physically dead person (Jesus) is? Is serving Jesus (a) common in your life, (b) if so, how, and (c) if not, why not? Please explain your answers.

Read Psalm 23:5

5. Millions of Christians have suffered terribly at the hands of their enemies. Does Psalm 23:5 apply to all Christians? Please explain your answer.
6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The enemies mentioned in Psalm 23:5 are all of the people who do not know, follow, or trust in Christ for salvation. The "table", the "anointing", and the "overflowing cup" will not be experienced by all Christians until they gather before Jesus in the heavenly kingdom."

Read John 15:18-19

7. Do Christians in America experience being “hated by the world”? Is hatred (or the absence of hatred, as the case may be) by the world a good or a bad thing for Christians to experience? Please explain your answers.

Read John 16:33

8. Who has faced the most trouble: (a) the early Christians (b) the Christians in the current communist and/or Islamic countries or (c) Christians in America today? Is persecution and/or trouble a good or bad experience for the church? Please explain your answers.

Read Psalm 23:6

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Even when I experience pain, suffering, despair, persecution, injustice, fear, and emotional turmoil, I always know and find comfort in God’s goodness and His love for me.”
10. Does Psalm 23:6 describe for every Christian a reality which is experienced: (a) in the present; (b) in the future; (c) partially now and partially in the future; and/or (d) never? Please explain your answer.

Read Hebrews 13:5-6

11. What do the “freedom from the love of money” and the “presence of contentment” have to do with the reality that Jesus will never “leave you nor forsake you”? In your opinion, is the typical American Christian (a) free of the love of money and (b) content? What does your answer reveal about the faith of the typical American Christian? Please explain your answer.
12. How does the reality that Jesus is “with you always” affect what you think, do, and say every day? Please explain your answers.

Consider: Jesus is with every Christian twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will never ask us to do anything for which He does not provide the power and the means to do. The key to enjoying life is to know, love, trust, and follow the Good Shepherd. “You think about that.” Amen.