

God is Good All the Time

Your Rod & Staff

Psalm 23:4

Pastor Brian

Psalm 23 ¹ *The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.* ² *He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.* ³ *He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for His Name's sake.* ⁴ *Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff comfort me.*

What is a rod and a staff?

1. A rod is used to **guard and protect**.

1 Samuel 17 ³⁴ *But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it."* (NIV)

2. A staff is used to **lead and guide**.

Psalm 78 ⁵² *But he brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the wilderness.* (NIV)

3. Together, they **provide comfort**.

John 10 ¹⁰ *But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.* (GW)

How does Jesus comfort us?

1. When we submit to Him, He gives us a **new life**.

Titus 3 ⁵ *He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.* (NLT)

2. When we are hurting, He shows **compassion**.

Matthew 9 ³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* (NLT)

3. When we lose our way, He **finds us & brings us back**.

Luke 15 ⁴ *If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?* (NLT)

4. When we are attacked, **He protects us**.

Psalm 91 ¹⁴ *The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. ¹⁵ When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them."* (NLT)