

The Christian Arsenal

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GOD'S ANTIDOTE TO FEARING THE FUTURE Stressbusters

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Part 7

“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6 (KJV)

INTRO: Many people can never enjoy today because they are worrying about tomorrow.

I CAN FACE THE FUTURE CONFIDENTLY . . .

I. BECAUSE GOD IS WATCHING OVER ME!

“Surely goodness ... will follow me all the days of my life ...” (Ps 23:6)
Because God is good I can expect His protection and provision.

“The Lord watches over all who love Him ...” Ps 145:20 (NIV)

“We know that all that happens to us is working for our good! IF we love God and are fitting into His plans.” Romans 8:28

There is no difficulty, dilemma, defeat, disaster in the life of a Christian that ultimately God won't bring good out of it.

“(God) orders his angels to protect you wherever you go.” Ps. 91:11 (LB)
The Bible says that one of the reasons God created angels is to watch over and protect believers.

II. BECAUSE GRACE IS WORKING IN ME!

“Surely ... mercy will follow me all the days of my life ...” Ps 23:6

1. “I will have mercy on you through my grace.” Isa 60:10 (LB)

2. What is GRACE? God's Riches At Christ's Expense

3. Grace is the fact that God gives you what you need, not what you deserve.

4. What is mercy?

- Mercy is grace in action.
- Withholding from us what we do deserve.

“I will ... not forget the glorious things God does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals me. He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with loving-kindness ... He fills my life with good things ... He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry ... He never bears

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a grudge ... He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins for HIS MERCY ... is as great as the height of the heavens ... He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence Him.” Ps 103:2-11 (LB)

- God has a 24 hour drop in service where we can go to Him asking for help.
- You'll never face a day without God's goodness and mercy with you if you have given your life to Jesus Christ.
- Christians go to the future not with a question mark but with an exclamation point. Stop supposing and start reposing.
- God's goodness will: provide and protect
- God's mercy will: pardon and forgive

III. BECAUSE HEAVEN IS WAITING FOR ME!

“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Ps 23:6

This is one of the most important little connections in the bible. It connects yesterday and today with tomorrow.

“We know that our body ... will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a house for us. It will not be a house made by human hands; instead, it will be a home in heaven that will last forever.” 2 Cor. 5:1 (NCV)

“We look forward with confidence to our heavenly bodies ... And we are not afraid, but are quite content to die, for then we will be at home with the Lord.” 2 Cor 6:6,8 (LB)

“He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever.” Rev 21:4 (LB)

“God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God, in his mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting him ... So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here.” I Peter 1:4-6 (LB)

“You are only visitors here ... your real home is in heaven ...” I Peter 2:11 (LB)

Don't invest your life for things. Getting things is not the goal of life. Getting prepared for heaven is.

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“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28 (NIV)

You have 2 choices in life:

1. You can either face the future as a cynic, a doubter, with negative thoughts, expecting the worst.
2. You can face the future expecting God to be with you and His goodness and His mercy to follow you all the days of your life.

Summary of Psalm 23 (The last 7 weeks)

If I know the Shepherd, I don't have to fear anything. I don't need to fear poverty because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need. I don't need to fear loneliness, for He is with me. I don't need to fear mistakes, for He guides me on the right path. I don't need to fear failure, for He restores my soul. I don't need to fear the future, because goodness and mercy are going to follow me all the days of my life. I don't even need to fear death, because I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

God is beneath me in green pastures. He is beside me in still waters. He is with me in the valley. He is around me in the presence of my enemies. He's upon me anointing my head with oil. He is before me leading me in the right paths. He is behind me, surely goodness and mercy will follow me. He's even beyond me in heaven. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

What more could you want? That covers it all!

Jesus is all you need.

The Good Shepherd provides:

Protection

Provision

Peace

Providence

Presence

Paradise

That wraps it all up!