

Facing DEATH
Series: Faith vs Fear
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“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
He refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.
**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
**Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”** Psalm 23

Psalm 23 paints a beautiful, comforting picture of how our walk with God CAN, SHOULD look. Sadly, the serene picture is NOT what many find when facing shadows, especially death.

2 Pictures of the Valley of the Shadow of Death: one of FAITH the other FEAR. **How do I face Death with Faith, not Fear?**

1. Death is a _____ we will all Travel.

“He guides me along the **right paths for his name’s sake.**” Psalm 23:3b

“Just as **people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,** ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, **but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**” Hebrews 9:27-28

2. God Guides me into death by providing 2 Comforts:

“I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4b

• **The Comfort of His _____.**

“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:25-27

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**” Matt. 28:18-20

• **The Comfort of His _____ . (Rod & Staff)**

3. Living with a Shepherd is a _____ Concept to many Christians.

“Just as **people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,**” Hebrews 9:27

Conclusion:

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶**But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.** ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

We will all face death. Are you preparing for it now by daily feeling the comfort of the Spirit of Christ?

Does your life more resemble the Psalmist or my Minister Friend?

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org