

## **Psalm 23, Part Four**

**by**

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IN our study of the 23rd Psalm we have looked at the words “Lord” and “shepherd” and have tried to apply these truths to our hearts and lives. Today, we want to consider the little word “the.” Just a small word and yet it play an extremely important role. “The” is a word of exclusion, narrowing the identity of the other two words to a specific Individual, the one and the only Lord and Shepherd. In John 14:6 Jesus declared,

“Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” NKJV

Jesus did not say I am one of many ways to God, but rather I am the one and the only way to God. There is no other way. This is very important to note because in our day some of the voices crying in the wilderness tell us that God has several sons while others declare there are many ways to God in order to find acceptance with Him. However, Jesus closed all other doors of man’s imagination when he said "No man comes unto the Father but by me." That may seem a very simple statement, but it is very profound, in fact extremely so. There is only one way to God for forgiveness of sin and only one way of assurance of acceptance by God and a permanent home with Him in eternity. Jesus also declares in:

1 Jn 5:12-13, “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” NKJV

Jn 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." NKJV

When we believe the words of God and the Bible that Jesus is the only Lord and Shepherd, we come to clearly understand that any other way to God is false and rejected by God.

In the book of Genesis, God rejected Cain who tried to come to God his own way. God gave credit where credit is due for Cain had tried his best to please God only to be rejected because he would not humble himself to come to God the one and only acceptable way. Unfortunately, that same tragic error of judgment has been repeated multiplied times again and again over the years of time. The way to God is not sincerity in what I believe or think, or doing good works, or being religious, or a good person and etc. The only way God accepts is through the Lord Jesus Christ, God's one and only son. This is brought out so clearly by the Apostle Paul

Eph. 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." NKJV

Ro 3:20, "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin." NKJV

Ro 3:27-28, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." NKJV

Thinking in the human and looking at the facts of scripture, we see how cruel God the Father would be if He accepted another way to Himself. How cruel it would have been to put his only begotten Son through death and suffering on the cross and the pouring out of His wrath upon Him, if God accepted others way to find acceptance with Him.

In our day we hear all kind of philosophical teachings, even from some of the pulpits of churches about God's love accepts all men. However, the Biblical facts on the matter are true just the same. If you personally reject the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Savior and in rebellion against God you try to make another way acceptable to God, then you have personally rejected God and God's love for you. Scripture declares it is not God's will that fallen man perish, but it is the heart of God that all men, every one of them come to be born again and receive the love of God (2 Pet. 3:9). The only way we can know that love is through the death, burial, and resurrection of his Son Jesus in which He paid the debt of sin we owe to God.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible declare that God is no respecter of persons...and he died on that cross for you.

Jn 10:9-10, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." NKJV

1 Jn 5:13, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." NKJV

David did not say, he had the hope of acceptance of God and hope that maybe someday if he is good enough he may make heaven. Dear friend listen to Psalm23 and hear clearly David declaring that he had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus which makes the rest of this Psalm applicable to him and to all who trust Jesus for their eternity.