

Teaching Newsletter

Jehovah Surely ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

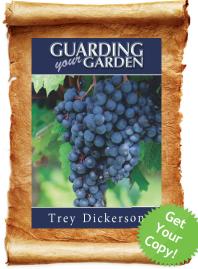
e have been steadily moving through the 23rd Psalm in these newsletters for many months now, and this month, I want us to camp on part of its final verse, verse 6. In this verse, King David continues with this description of God being our Honorable Host by saying, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ... " Church, this statement is so powerful in that it reveals to us what we have to look forward to not just in the next life, but in all of the days of our life here now!

First of all, notice the first word we see used in this verse-"Surely!" Some synonyms for the word "Surely" are as follows: "really, certainly, definitely, easily, hands down, undeniably & undoubtedly." Therefore, when we see the word "Surely" attached to a statement in God's Word, this means we can take it to the bank! It is a done deal! You see, we don't need a Greek or Hebrew scholar to explain all these words in the Bible to us before we start believing them! All you and I need is enough faith to just start actually believing what His Word says and taking it at face value! So here, when the Bible says, "Surely!", it really means "Surely!"

So, say this with me now--- "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!," And we can even take it a step further and say-"Sure-

ly, He shall heal me! Surely, He shall bless me! Surely, He shall save my children! Surely, He shall protect me! etc." But do you know why we, under this new and better covenant, can particularly be so confident? It is because He already has delivered us! He already has healed us! He already has blessed us! Yes, He already has poured out His goodness and mercy on us through Christ Je

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A WORD FROM SHANNON purpose, for a

As believers, we should be living our lives on purpose, with purpose.

Noah Webster's dictionary defines purpose as "that which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; intention or design."

God has given each of us a purpose along with gifts and talents to be used- not buried! So just simply be

faithful with what God has given you to do.

And remember: it is not what we do once a week or once a month or once a year that gets us anywhere. It's what we do day in and day out, when we feel like it, when we don't, when we want to and when we don't that positions us to fulfill our purpose.

Be faithful because our awesome Heavenly Father is faithful!

October 2019

("Jehovah Surely" continued)

sus! So, as far as God is concerned, it has already been done! Amen! SURELY, God's grace is in our account! So, I would go as far as saying that if God were a woman, I bet He would have named Himself, "Jehovah Shirley!" LOL!

So, what is it that we can be so confident of experiencing every day of our lives? David says that it is God's <u>goodness</u> and <u>mercy</u> is following us all the days of our life. Regarding this, Charles Spurgeon used to call "goodness and mercy" God's footmen–because in his day, when a wealthy man traveled, two footmen took their place behind him on his coach. Their task was to smooth the way for him. Where he went, they went. God's two footmen are goodness and mercy and they follow us just like those footmen to smooth our journey home!

However, when this verse says that this goodness and mercy shall "follow" us all the days of our life, some have gotten the wrong impression. The picture that we could have regarding this is that God's goodness and mercy is maybe 50 yards behind us, picking up the rear. But the Hebrew word that David used here is crucial to understand in this context. It is the Hebrew word radaph, which means "to pursue, to set off after someone in order to catch them." It also means "to chase, to run after, or to be in hot pursuit of." In fact, this word is translated "persecute" more times in the original King James version than it was "follow." David oftentimes used this same word to describe his enemies' pursuing and persecution of him. So, this paints a better picture of what David meant in Psalm 23:6: Just as David's enemies would intentionally and maliciously pursue David to do him harm because of their hatred for him, God's goodness and mercy likewise intentionally pursue us-but not to do us harm because of their hatred-but to do us good because He loves us! Amen! So, no, God's goodness and mercy do not follow behind us at some distance, never catching up to us. No, they are pursuing us in order to catch us every day!

For example, it is like you were speeding and now a police car is "following" you with its lights on. That police officer is not "following" you from a distance; no, they are "pursuing" you in order to catch up to you, pull you over, and give you a ticket for speeding. Church, that is what God's goodness and mercy is doing for each and every one of us every day: They are in "hot pursuit" of us! The difference is, when they catch you and I, they are not going to give you a ticket (i.e. punishment and judgment); God's goodness and His unfailing love will provide you with all manner of grace and mercy! Amen!

Now, finally, that leads me to the last part of this phrase we are covering; notice that David's confidence was not in the fact that God's goodness and love pursuing us will happen sometimes or from time to time; no, David said, "Surely, (this will happen) *all the*

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days of my life." In other words, this was not something that he believed would happen occasionally or sporadically; this was not something he was confident would happen from time to time or even "as the Lord willed." No, David was "sure" that the Lord's goodness and mercy would be in hot pursuit of him every day of his life.

So, this is something that we should ask ourselves: Do we believe that we have good things and God's love pursuing us every day? Are we



expecting that something good will happen to us today? This is apparently what David believed!

Now the truth is that most people (including Christians) are *pessimistic*, not *optimistic*. They will say things like, "Well, if it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all!" And the problem with this belief system is that it based on their experiences and not on God's Word. The Bible says, "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life!" So, that is *only* what we should be saying! As the late Oral Roberts was known for saying and even wrote a book on, *"Something good is going to happen to you today!"* Where did he get this from? From verses like Psalm 23:6!

So, this is what I want you to take away from this today: we need to change our expectations and begin to say out of our mouths *every day* that "Surely, something good is going to happen to me today!"– all because God has said that His goodness and His unfailing love is pursuing us every day of our lives! Church, this is what "Jehovah Surely" has promised us, so we can bet the farm that His goodness and mercies are in hot pursuit of us all the days of our life! Amen!

Victoriously,

3 John 2

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> Living Logos Ministries P.O. BOX 28283, Macon, GA 31221 706-207-4337 treydickerson@yahoo.com www.treydickerson.com

