

## [April 24.]

Psa. 23. 1.

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which gives Jesus's words concerning the Good Shepherd and the sheep-fold.

Find and read the passage in which Jesus tells Simon Peter to care for his sheep and lambs.

Find an allusion made by Peter to the condition of sinners as stray sheep.

### QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

#### 1. The Shepherd, v. 1.

Who is declared to be a Shepherd ?

Who is the Good Shepherd ? (John 10. 11.)

What confidence does God's shepherding inspire ? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

What will the Lord withhold from his people ? (Psa. 84. 11.)

#### 2. His Pasture, v. 2, 3.

Into what pastures does the Shepherd guide his flocks ?

Beside what waters ?

What does he do for the soul ?

In what paths does he lead ?

What should we do to insure guidance ? (Prov.

3. 6.)

#### 3. His Rod, v. 4.

Where need no evil be feared ?

Whose presence gives safety ?

What pledge of comfort have we ?

How long will the Shepherd go with us ? (Matt. 28. 20.)

#### 4. His Table, v. 5, 6.

For whom does God spread his table ?

What mark of honor does he give his guests ?

What attendance is sure to the believer ?

Where will a wise man wish to dwell ?

What can he say about God's house ? (Psa. 84. 10.)

### Teachings of the Lesson.

Which in this lesson are we taught—

1. That God supplies our need ?
2. That God protects us in danger ?
3. That God only can give us true joy ?

This beautiful psalm is unquestionably the work of David. Precisely when it was written it is impossible to determine ; but its delightful imagery was drawn from early experiences, when the welfare of a flock of sheep filled the regal mind and heart which afterward governed the proudest nation of the day, and made all surrounding sovereigns subject to him.

### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

**Verse 1. The Lord.** Here, as elsewhere when printed in small capitals, this title stands for what was by devout Hebrews an unutterable name—Jehovah. **My shepherd.** Every word in this first verse needs emphasis and deserves analysis. Enumerate the divine attributes, and thus become acquainted with **THE LORD**. Then notice that he is my Shepherd—not a past experience treasured by memory, nor a future prospect

### Home Work for Young Bereans.

Find what young David was doing when called to be anointed as king.

Find and carefully read the passage in which Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd.

### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What was King David when a boy ? **A shepherd lad.**

What does a shepherd do ? **Loves and tends his flock.**

What does David call the Lord in this psalm ? **His Shepherd.**

Why did he call him this ? **Because God cared for him.**

What did he give him ? **Good food for soul and body.**

Where did he lead him ? **In pleasant, peaceful ways.**

What paths are pleasant ? **Right paths.**

Why need a good man fear nothing ? **Because God is with him.**

When will his comfort be most precious ? **When death comes.**

When may a Christian be safe and happy ? **Even in the presence of enemies.**

Who will give him peace then ? **The Lord.**

What did David say of his peace ? **"My cup runneth over."**

Did David have nothing to trouble him ? **Yes ; but God was with him.**

What follows a Christian every-where ? **Goodness and mercy.**

Where did David say he would always dwell ? **In the house of the Lord.**

### Words with Little People.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, and I am his lamb ;  
One of the weakest and frailest I am ;  
Yet still by his bounty daily I'm fed,  
And into green pastures tenderly led."

### Whisper Pledge.

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord."

### General Statement.

prized by hope ; the blessed privileges portrayed in this psalm are all for present possession. A third thought : He is **my** Shepherd. It is profoundly interesting to note that the relations of the eternal God to a human soul are comparable to the relations of a shepherd to a flock ; but it will only be poetry—and dreary poetry at that—if he is not "**my** Shepherd." Lastly, in the characterization, comes the word **SHEPHERD**. Our Lord