

## *Walking Through The Valley*

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me” (Psa. 23:4).*

To go from Saluda, North Carolina, where I live, to Tryon, North Carolina, where my grandparents (my dad’s parents) lived, we had to go down the mountain and through what is commonly referred to as “The Valley.” Although it is a little further, now we can drive to Columbus on the interstate highway and turn back toward Tryon. In years gone by, however, there was no other way. We had to go through “The Valley.”

In our spiritual journey from Earth to Heaven, believers go through valleys. Some valleys are very deep and dark. Others may not be as deep and dark, but they are more treacherous. And there are valleys that seem to be unbelievably long and time consuming. Yet, all in all, they connect us to the next vantage point in the journey. They are not only part of the journey—they are also extremely beneficial. They take us to another plain.

David admitted that the valley before him was dark and shadowy, dangerous and threatening, and a scene to be feared. Yet with his competent Shepherd leading the way, he felt safe and secure. Instead of wanting to run from the valley, he calmly trusted the Lord to protect him as he walked through it. He even looked at this difficult place with a positive attitude, saying “Yea” to his valley. Some special lessons are clearly set forth in this wonderful text.

*Believers are not absolved from the valley!* There are no exemptions; there are no excuses. The same Shepherd Who leads His sheep into “green pastures,” beside “still waters,” and in “paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” also leads them into ravines and low places. We must accept it; we must acknowledge it; all who follow the Lord Jesus will eventually walk through deep valleys.

*Believers are not alone in the valley!* While we realize there are valleys in which we will travel, we must also realize that we will not travel there by ourselves. In the face of difficult, dark experiences, the Psalmist confidently proclaimed, “I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.” The faithful Shepherd will make His presence known in the most terrible moments of life.

*Believers are not abandoned to the valley!* We will come into valleys. And the Shepherd’s presence will be near. Yet He will not leave us in any valley. Notice the words of the text: “Yea, though I walk through the valley.” “Through.” He will not lead us into the valley and then leave it to us to get out. No, He will take us all the way through the valley. This is not only true now, but will be true when we face the final valley, the valley of death.

