

## The Sunday-School.

FOURTH QUARTER,  
LESSON VII.—Nov. 15.

## DAVID'S TRUST IN GOD.

PSALM 23.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*—Psa. 23:1.HISTORICAL SETTING.—*Author*—David.  
*Date*.—It is unnecessary to refer the writing of this psalm to any particular period of David's history. Its form grew out of his experience with sheep; its spirit of comfort and help was needed in many of his experiences.

The lesson includes the psalm 23, together with Isa. 40:11, and the New Testament references to Christ as a shepherd (John 10:1-8; Luke 15:4-7).

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD. — Vs. 1.  
*The Lord*. Jehovah, the ever-living God. To understand this illustration of the Divine Shepherd it is necessary that we realize the situation of the sheep in the land of Palestine in the time of David, and the relation of the shepherd to the sheep.*The Situation*.—An eastern pasture is often practically boundless. The mass of it consists of dry, stony soil. In David's time the dangers were great; wild beasts were abundant, the robbers were numerous and dangerous, sudden storms and wild torrents were liable to take the flock by surprise.

The good shepherd must be vigilant. He must know the country; he must know each sheep by name; he must watch over his flock, supply every want, care for every need. Every hour of the shepherd's life is risk.

This is a picture of what the Lord is to his people. Jesus gave his life for the sheep. If the shepherd had not sacrificed himself, the sheep must have been the sacrifice.

What the Good Shepherd does for his flock is told in the rest of the psalm.

HE SATISFIES EVERY WANT.—*I shall not want*. Every real need shall be supplied, both temporal and spiritual. Our Shepherd is wise as well as kind. He consults for our true and lasting welfare, rather than for our immediate gratifications.

1. He has all things with which to supply every possible want of body and soul.

2. He has all wisdom and skill by which to make them available to his children.

3. He has perfect love and desire to make all things work together for good.

4. He knows each one of his flock by name. He knows each person's nature and needs and circumstances. He metes out our lives to us as individuals. He loves us as individuals. Thus he calls us by name. No one but a divine Saviour, omniscient and omnipresent, could know all his disciples by name, and be present everywhere to hear their prayers and grant them aid and satisfy their wants.

THE LIFE OF PEACE AND PLENTY. — Vs. 2. *He maketh me to lie down*. The most active life needs periods of rest. We need resting places all along the highway of life, nights between busy days, Sundays between weeks of toil, periods of meditation and prayer. Many a man has had to thank God for some enforced season of rest, in which he first learned the sweetness of lying still inGod's hands and waiting God's pleasure. *In green pastures*. The good shepherd always feeds his sheep. The lying down is amid the green pastures, abundant food. The soul needs food. Whatever enlarges the soul, builds up the character, increases faith, hope, love, knowledge, and all the virtues, makes the conscience more tender and true, cultures the will, perfects the judgment, and enables the soul to work out a pure and holy life, and fits it for heaven—whatever does these things constitutes the green pastures.*He leadeth me*. The shepherd goes before them, and they follow him. The shepherd never leaves them.*Beside the still waters*. Not quiet waters, which would be stagnant, but gently flowing among green fields.

NOTE.—This world, its work, its ambition, its pleasures, can never satisfy the soul. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, by the living waters he gives, satisfies every thirst of the soul. Every thirst is satisfied in Christ Jesus.

RESTORING THE SOUL.—V. 3. *He restoreth my soul, or life*. The soul is the seat of life. The Good Shepherd restores the soul from wanderings into sin and error as the eastern shepherd recovers straying sheep.DIVINE GUIDANCE.—The restored soul he not only brings back to the green pastures and to the fold, but he *leadeth me in the paths of righteousness*. That is, in the paths which lead to the best places, the paths of duty and right living. We are continually coming to the parting of ways, where we need a guide. No one knows where certain paths lead that open before him. But God knows. And those who look to him he will guide in the paths of righteousness; but step by step. *For His name's sake*. Not because of our deserts or claims. But because he loves to guide us.PROTECTION IN TIMES OF DANGER.—V. 4. *Yea, though (or when) I walk (go forward steadily in the path of duty) through the valley of the shadow of death*. It refers to the times of darkness, depression, and almost despair, as when Jesus on the cross felt that his Father had forsaken him; times when there are such thick clouds of sorrow and pain that God's sun and stars are blotted from the sight, as when Elijah wished to die under the juniper tree, and John the Baptist in dungeon. *I will fear no evil*. He does not say that no evil will ever come to him. For he knows well enough that there are many grievous things in life. We may be hurt, but never harmed. God did not take up the three Hebrews out of the furnace of fire, but came down and walked with them in it. He did not remove Daniel from the den of lions; he sent his angels to close the mouths of the beasts. He did not answer the prayer of Paul to remove the thorn in the flesh, but he gave him a sufficiency of grace to sustain him. *For thou art with me*. Thou who art stronger than all the powers of evil. I cannot see thee; I recognize thy protecting love.*Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me*. The rod, the shepherd's crook, was used for helping any sheep which had been caught in the rocks or torrent, or had been injured. The crook was placed around its neck or leg, and the shepherd drew it out of its difficulty.*They comfort me*. *Comfort* means much more than to console. It means also to strengthen, to invigorate to encourage.GUESTS OF GOD.—V. 5. *Thou preparest (or spreadest) a table before me in the presence of mine enemies*. He can sit and eat in perfect security, though surrounded by enemies. Enemies of every kind are around the Christian. But the whole armour of God upon him he can perform his daily duties in perfect security.The servant of God is more than a sheep to be fed—he is an honored guest. His enemies see that God is his friend and protector, and they cannot harm him without first overcoming God himself. *Thou anointest my head with oil*. An attention shown to guests.THE OVERFLOWING CUP OF LIFE. — *My cup runneth over*. The cup that holds God's blessings and mercies is overflowing. God's love and mercy are free and abundant.GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE FOR EVERLASTING.—V. 6. *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me*. The goodness and mercy shall follow him. God loves to give good things to his people. *All the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever*. That to which he looked forward was access to God in his sanctuary, and the blessedness of communion with him there. A member of Christ's family here will be a member there where "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## SUNDAY-SCHOOLS AND TEMPERANCE

Every Sunday-school in the country should engage heartily and persistently in efforts to educate its children and youth in the principles of temperance. The chief hope of the temperance reform lies in this direction. So instruct the Sunday-school boys and girls of to-day regarding the evils of intemperance, the baseness and wickedness of the liquor traffic, the guilt and shame of drunkenness, and the obligation all are under to be not only "total abstainers," but aggressive and entrinal opposers of everything connected with the business of drunkard-making as to arouse their horror at the traffic and enlist their sympathies on the side of its overthrow, and a generation hence the liquor business in this country will have received its death blow.

In order to the realization of this end let all our schools henceforth make much more than they have hitherto done of the Quarterly Temperance Lessons, of Temperance Sunday, of the introduction and circulation of temperance literature, of securing signatures to the temperance pledge, and of the teaching of temperance, systematically and with object lessons, charts, pictures, experiments, etc., to the children. In fact, let there be a well organized and well equipped temperance department in every school among us, to devise and aid in executing plans for increasing the efficiency of the school as a factor in promoting temperance reform through the training up of a generation of intelligent, conscientious, fearless and self-sacrificing citizens to demand, to work for, and, if need be, to suffer, for the abolition of the accursed liquor traffic.

Ayer's

What are your friends saying about you? That your gray hair makes you look old? And yet, you are not forty! Postpone this looking old.

Hair Vigor

Use Ayer's Hair Vigor and restore to your gray hair all the deep, dark, rich color of early life. Then be satisfied.

"Ayer's Hair Vigor restored the natural color to my gray hair, and I am greatly pleased. It is all you claim for it."  
MRS. E. J. VANDECAE, Mechanicsville, N. Y.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

for Dark Hair

## WANTED!

A man to represent "CANADA'S GREATEST NURSERIES" in the Town of Fredericton and surrounding country, and take orders for

## OUR HARDY SPECIALTIES

in Fruit Trees, Small Fruits, Ornamentals, Shrubs, Roses, Vines, Seed Potatoes, &amp;c.

Stock true to name and free from San Jose Scale. A permanent position for the right man on either salary or commission.

Stone &amp; Wellington,

FONTHILL NURSERIES,

Over 800 Acres.

TORONTO, - - - ONTARIO.

A healthful hunger for a great ideal is the beauty and blessedness of life.

*Painkiller*, the best all 'round medicine ever made. Used as a liniment for bruises and swellings. Internally for cramps and diarrhoea. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'.

Man's lips and not God's ears, are at fault when prayers are unanswered.

*A Nagging Cough* drives sleep and comfort away. You can conquer it with Allen's Lung Balsam, which relieves hard breathing, pain in the chest and irritation of the throat. Give it freely to the children.

The full salvation of the saint depends on what he is doing for the salvation of the sinner.

*"Man is Filled with Misery."*—This is not true of all men. The well, sound of lung, clear of eye, alert and buoyant with health, are not miserable whatever may be their social condition. To be happy, and we can all be well by getting and keeping our bodies in a healthful state. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil not only allays pains when applied externally, but will prevent lung troubles resulting from colds and coughs. Try it and be convinced.