

Today

The Good Shepherd

Series: Church Music
Text: Psalm 23

Heidelberg Catechism

Question 28: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

Answer: We can be patient when things go against us,¹ thankful when things go well,² and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.³ For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.⁴

¹ Job 1:21-22; James 1:3 ²Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18

³Psalm 55:22; Rom. 8:38-39 ⁴Job 1:12, 2:6; Prov. 21:1; Acts 17:24-28

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Forgiven
Psalm 32

Sunday at the Creek

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Today's Psalm

*Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord forever*

Psalm 23:6

Pilgrim's Progress is a classic work written around 1680. It is an allegory where all the characters and the actions in the story represent the life of a believer.

In fact, the main character's name is Christian, and he is making his way on a journey (the Christian life) to the Celestial City (heaven). The story details the challenges of navigating this journey.

In one portion of this story Christian finds himself in a valley. He is walking, at night, on a very narrow path. On each side of Christian are all types of evils making every effort to make him fall.

Then there is very telling description:

"I took notice that now poor Christian was so confounded that he did not know his own voice, and this is how I observed it: Just when he had come close to the mouth of the burning pit, one of the Wicked Ones got behind him, stepping up softly and whispering suggestions of deplorable blasphemies to him. He

actually thought these had originated in his own mind. . .

"After Christian had traveled in this sad condition for a considerable time, he though he heard the voice of a man saying, 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.'"

Christian thought he was alone in this valley. When he heard this voice, he found another believer, who just like him, thought he was alone. With joy they both helped each other out of the Valley.

What an accurate description of the Christian life in that there are times we feel alone in a valley. Today we will be in the very well-known 23rd Psalm which contains the description of the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

We are never alone in this valley. Not only is our Shepherd with us, but we also receive help from brethren in the family of God who have or are enduring the same Valley.

pastor Matt

we are the work of God

July 26, 2026



living in the face of God

Lord's Day 30