

A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

Chapter Eleven

Verse 6 from missionary Bob Burgess; a personal translation:

How can I expect anything but the goodness of God and God's covenant of love to follow me, in fact pursue me, all the days of my life? And I will live in the presence of the Eternal God, the One who always does what He says, forever.

1. Read Exodus 34:6, Psalm 31:19, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 103:2-18, Lamentations 3:22-23, Titus 3:5. What do these verses say about the goodness of God?
2. Think of a time when you felt that your life was falling apart and, in retrospect, you came to see God's goodness and mercy through that experience. Summarize what you learned about His management of your affairs:
3. How has that life lesson changed your attitude when you've experienced subsequent trials?

4. What does the author refer to as “the essence of all that has gone before in this Psalm?”

5. What is the meaning of “those of the golden hooves?” How does this term apply to Christians?

“The only real, practical measure of my appreciation for the goodness and mercy of God to me is the extent to which I am, in turn, prepared to show goodness and mercy to others.”

6. List ways you routinely leave a “blessing and a benediction” behind you?

7. Write one way that you benefit The Lord, a way that you pass back a measure of His goodness and mercy to Him.

From Elizabeth George, “Powerful Promises for Every Woman:”

Dear one, for you and me as Christian women, “hope” is not to be seen as an uncertainty. We are not “hoping” that God’s promises will come true. No, we rather have a “confident hope” in God’s promises, for we have confidence in the character of God. A promise is only as good as the one who makes the promise. So, because of God’s goodness and mercy, we have a confident hope for all the days of our lives---and beyond---“through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:6).