

LIVING WELL – THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (Psalm 23)

1. The Lord wants me to live well. I shall not be in want (verse 1); my cup overflows (verse 5); This is true of each of us as individuals; it should also be true of us as a church.
 - How is our cup to overflow? How / why do we *feel* in want?
2. The Lord recharges my batteries. He restores my soul (verse 3); green pastures (verse 2); quiet waters (verse 2); paths of righteousness (verse 3)
 - If the church or the individual is flagging in zeal and energy – what is the answer?
3. The Lord is with me in the dark times of life. (The valley of the shadow of death / fear no evil / you are with me / your rod and staff comfort me (verse 4)
 - The rod and the staff are God’s defences and support – how are they a comfort to us in the dark times?
4. The Lord is ready to honour me and provide for me. (He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies – that is, he honours me even when people around me are giving me grief; he anoints my head with oil – this is the anointing for ministry, also the anointing for honour and blessing and rejoicing. (verse 5)
 - What kind of honour in the very midst of those giving grief?
5. The Lord’s goodness and mercy and presence are with me for time and eternity. (goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life / dwell in the house of the Lord forever (verse 6)

The house of the Lord is now. Psalm 92:13 “Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.” There are those who visit the house of the Lord, weekly, monthly or periodically; and there are those who dwell in the house of the Lord. They are living stones in God’s house (1 Peter 2:5) And the house of the Lord is the eternal reality (John 14:1-4).

- How do we communicate the spiritual connection between the house of God now, and the house of God in the life to come?