**Surely!**

**Psalm 23:1-6**

**Psalms 23:6 -- “**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

We come now to the last verse of this Psalm. In many ways the last verse produces in us a sense of security. Yet, that security can only flow from that which was spoken by David in the first verse - “The LORD is my shepherd!” (**Psalm 23:1**)

Every blessing mentioned in this Psalm – even the promise of future security - flows from this opening statement.

In **Psalm 23:2**, David testifies of green pastures and still waters – describing the peace, comfort, and satisfaction of God’s salvation.

In **Psalm 23:3**, He also testifies of God’s restoration - “He restoreth my soul!” - and His leadership into - “the paths of righteousness for his name sake.”

In **Psalm 23:4**, David speaks of times when his Shepherd allowed his life to be filled with darkness and shadows – when he was being squeezed in on every side – when he even felt the shadow of death over him.

In **Psalm 23:5**, David speaks of a Shepherd who is present during times when he was surrounded by his enemies.

David spoke of the spiritual table prepared his Shepherd, the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

That table was prepared in the midst and in the presence of his enemies – it was prepared for his spiritual health and enjoyment even when his enemies were present.

David closed the fifth verse of this Psalm by stating that his Shepherd had anointed his head with oil and therefore his cup continually ran over with the blessings of God.

We now come to the last verse - **Psalms 23:6 -- “**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”

With all the evidence of the Shepherd’s presence and His blessings throughout his life, David could look forward in confidence to God’s continual faithfulness to him reaching into eternity.

His Shepherd had determined that everything He did for David would result in David coming to the conclusion of verse six – that is – the Lord Jesus Christ would always be his Shepherd and would always be his Friend!

**Note**: Either the grace, mercy, love, and goodness of God which comes to us through the Lord Jesus Christ, endures continually, and is always the same from everlasting to everlasting – or it is not. If they are not – then God has changed and that cannot be!

Every child of God needs to understand what David understood: - God does not change – He is immutable – and that which God has begun; He will finish!

**Philippians 1:6** – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

**I Thessalonians 5:23-24** –“(23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

**Psalm 23:6** – “**Surely** goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

David begins this verse with the word **surely**.

He means for us to understand that what follows is **certain**! It is **true**! This word gives a strong affirmation of whatever follows. Whatever it might be – you may be assured that it will certainly take place.

This is the faith that can see past the things which **are seen** to the things which **are not seen**!

**II Corinthians 4:18** – “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen … the things which are not seen are eternal.”

David walks by faith and not by sight!

He looks back on all the days of his life he sees the good hand of God and that faith causes him to confidently look forward to that same goodness and mercy for today as well as for tomorrow.

**II Corinthians 5:7** – “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

David knows that God is immutably faithful!

If God was gracious yesterday – He will be so today and tomorrow.

If God was merciful yesterday – He will be so today and tomorrow.

If God was good to us yesterday – He will be so today and tomorrow.

**Surely** is a statement of faith in a never failing God. It is a statement of **confidence** in God and in what He has promised.

The word **surely** is a statement of faith in the existence of God -- He is!

**Hebrews 11:6** – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: **for he** **that cometh to God** **must believe that he is**, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

**Hebrews 11:27** – “By faith he forsook Egypt … seeing him who is invisible.”

The word **surely** is a statement of faith in the faithfulness of God to His children --

**Psalm 56:9-13** – “(9) When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: **this I know**; for God is for me … (11) In God have I put my trust … (12) Thy vows are upon me, O God … (13) For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?”

**Surely** is a word that teaches us to call upon our God - Unto God as the rewarder of those who trust him.

**Hebrews 11:6** – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

**Compare: Psalm 62:1 and 5-6** -- “(1) **Truly** (surely) my soul waiteth upon God … (5) My soul, wait thou **only** upon God; for my expectation is from him. (6) He **only** (surely)is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.”

**Note**: the words **truly** and **only** in verse one and verse six are the same Hebrew word which is translated **surely** in Psalm 23!

**Surely** is a word that teaches us that we should be clinging to our God - to the God who is faithful in all his covenant promises

**Surely** is a word that teaches us that God has a purpose for our life. Therefore we can trust Him to fulfill that purpose.

**Surely** is a word that teaches us to have a heartfelt assurance in God’s love for us and all His people!

**Surely** – How sure? As sure as God is – as faithful as God -- as true as the promises of God for His people!

Does everything God gives you result in you trusting Him - cause you to call upon Him more - cause you to be confident in Him? Does every blessing? Does every trial? Does every valley? Does every enemy? Does every green pasture?

**Surely goodness …**

**God’s name is Goodness**.

When Moses delivered the second table of the Ten Commandments God stood with him and declared His name.

**Exodus 34:5-6** -- “(5) And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name of the LORD**. (6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in **goodness** and truth,”

**The essential character of God is that He is good**.

Jesus said, “There is none good but God ...” (**Luke 18:19**)

**Romans 2:4** -- “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God** leadeth thee to repentance?”

**All that is good comes down to us from the Father in heaven**.

**James 1:17** -- “**Every good gift** and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

**God has good intentions toward us.**

**Jeremiah 29:11** – “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

**God has good affections toward us.** He has promised to love us unto the end.

**Jeremiah 31:3 – “…** I have loved thee with an everlasting love …”

**John 13:1** – “… having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”

**God bestows good gifts upon us.** He bestows upon us all that has been reserved for us in Christ Jesus since before the foundation of the world.

**Ephesians 1:3** – “Blessed be the God … who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

**God makes sure that everything in our life work together for our good.**

**Romans 8:28** -- “And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

**Everything sent from our God to us is sent for our good.**

**I Chronicles 17:26** -- “And now, LORD, thou art God, and **hast promised this goodness** unto thy servant:”

**Surely … Mercy**

**Mercy** may be defined as the kindness – the favor – the lovingkindness – or the merciful kindness of God.

Mercy is that which is bestowed upon us as God views us in our pitiful condition.

**Charles Spurgeon**: “His goodness to supply my needs, and His mercy to forgive my sins.”

**The Pulpit Commentary**: “Goodness reminds us that our nature is a bundle of wants; mercy, that our deepest, highest need can be satisfied, not by all God’s gifts, but only by Himself.”

**Pardoning mercy** - **Titus 3:5** -- “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us ... “

**Protecting Mercy** - **Lamentations 3:22** -- “It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.”

**Preserving Mercy** - **Psalm 31:23** -- “O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful...”

**Psalm 33:18-22** - “Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; to deliver their soul from death...”

**Providing Mercy** - **Philippians 4:19** -- “But my God **shall supply all your needs** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Goodness and mercy **follow** me! They pursue me! They run after me! They chase after me! I am never out of their sight – never out of their presence – never without their companionship.

Goodness and mercy do not pursue me as an enemy would - to overtake me for my destruction .

Goodness and mercy do not pursue me as justice and judgment pursue the lost to their damnation.

Goodness and mercy do not pursue me as the man-slayer is pursued by the next of kin with vengeance in his heart.

No! Goodness and mercy pursue me as God pursues me - to preserve me from all that is my enemy!

As the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day followed and led the nation of Israel for their good, so goodness and mercy follow and lead me.

Goodness and mercy are pictured as outrunning our necessities, out running our trials, overtaking our sins, and out running our enemies.

David declared: **Psalm 27:13** -- “**I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD** in the land of the living.”

And: **Psalm 31:19** -- “**Oh how great is thy goodness**, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!”

**All** the days of my life …

Our life is filled with days. Each one is numbered – each one ordered and sure – each one complete with two companions – goodness and mercy.

All - Not a few days - during times when things seem to be going well.

All - Not at the beginning of my life when the world seems bright and beautiful.

All - Not at the end of my life when I need them most in order that I may enter into heaven.

But **all the days of my life**

**Charles Spurgeon**: “**all the days of his life**” - the black days as well as the bright days, the days of fasting as well as the days of feasting, the dreary days of winter as well as the bright days of summer. Goodness supplies our needs, and mercy blots out our sins.

I shall **dwell** --

Since I am pursued all the days of my life I shall - without a doubt - inherit eternal glory!

The word **dwell** may be defined as: to sit down in quiet - to be at ease in - to be at home in - to be at rest within - to remain within - to settle down in - to abide within - to continue within - to be as though I were married to One who will never forsake me so that my heart is settled and peaceful in our relationship.

I will dwell (be at ease) in the **House of the Lord forever**!

**Psalm 65:4** -- “Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: **he shall be satisfied with the goodness of they house, even thy holy temple**.”

**Psalm 73:24** – “(24) Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and **afterward** receive me to glory.”