***THIS IS YOUR LIFE.***

***Psa 23.***

**Intro:** Important key to understanding O.T. ***Jn :39-40.***

A condensed autobiography of David's life, written late in His life.

Every believer's biography. Individual particulars will differ, pattern remains constant in every generation.

a. **Conversion Vvs  *1-3a.*** N.T. **Justification. *Rom 5:1.***

b. **Consecration *Vvs 3b-6a.* Sanctification *Rom 8:29.***

**c. Consummation *Vvs 6b.* Glorification *1 Jn 3:2.***

**A. Conversion. *Vvs 1-3a.***

David's youth knowing God as God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. His conversion event ***Psa. 8.***

Revelation transcendent majesty of God and the fallen sinfulness of man.

Now knows God as - “My Shepherd.”

***Psa 23*** full of metaphors. David uses sheep herding terms to describe his relationship to God.

Green pastures, waters of rest (lit) describe his newfound peace and rest in God.

Summarises with. ***“He restores my soul.”*** Literally ***He returns my life.*** (Eng. trans of Septuagint)

Notice, ***“He makes, HE Leads, He restores.”***

God does, David receives.

The N.T. Believer's biography paralleled. **Justification *Rom 5:1***

The believer declared righteousness because Of Jesus work culminating at the cross. ***2Cor. 5:21***

Now a new creation ***2Cor 5:17.***

Results of Justification. ***Col. 1:12-13.*** Note verb. Tenses. Past tense.

Key word. “Substitute.”

**B. Consecration. *Vvs 3b-6a.***

God takes David from shepherding sheep to train him to shepherd Israel as King. ***Psa. 78:70-72.***

***He leads him in paths of righteousness***- “right paths.”

Those paths lead ***“Through the valley of the shadow.”*** i.e. Trials and testing.

The path Jesus would walk. ***Heb, 5:8-9.***

The shadows of Saul, the Philistines and later Amnon and Absalom fell across his path..

The School of Suffering was his School of Preparation and learning to lead Israel.

David assured he would ***“walk through”*** those shadowy places.

True also of the N.T. Believer.  ***Ja. 1:2-4. 1 Pet. 1:6-7”***

No one is “born” a disciple, Jesus ***“makes”*** disciples. ***Matt. 4:19.***

God's Presence revealed in the Holy Spirit. ***“Your rod and Your staff comfort me.”***

***1 Sam 16:13*** The Holy Spirit came upon David.

Rod and staff the protection, power, guidance and discipline of the Holy Spirit.

The ***“Table prepared in the presence of my enemies.”*** Gifts and graces of the Spirit.

Oil anointing and overflowing cup – the joy of service in the Spirit. Cf Jesus, ***Heb. 1-9.***

The Holy Spirit indwells a believer at regeneration making possible the fruit of the Spirit.

The same Spirit comes upon a believer at the Baptism with the Spirit, empowering and gifting them for service.

Key word. “Surrender.”

1. **Consummation. *V 6b.***

While God uses the believer for service on earth, His more important goal is preparing him for eternity.

***Eph. 2:5-7 Eph. 3:9-11***

Jesus” promise ***Jn. 14:2-3.***

What will eternity be like?

I do not know.

Read ***Rev. 21:15-26.***

Those things we highly value here, like pearls, are the gates of the City. The foundations of the walls are, every kind of precious stone, and gold, that we count so valuable, will be walked upon there.

It is other worldly, and definitely out of this world.

Key word. Superlative.

But. You must be able like David be able to say, ***“The Lord is MY Shepherd,”*** before you can walk those streets of gold.