"THE CHRISTIAN'S CONFIDENCE" Series - Message #4 of 6

"MY SHADOWS" - Psalm 23:3 / May 28, 2017

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

A. FEAR …

1. DANGER – *"Thou I walk through the valley."*

- We humans walk through valleys
- Jesus experienced & embraced valleys
- "God never promised to take you over the valley, around the valley, or to avoid the valley." – Jack Wellman

2. DARKNESS – *"of the shadow"*

- *"God reveals mysteries from the darkness and brings the deep darkness into light."* – Job 12:22
- *"The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and those who were sitting in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light dawned."* – Matthew 4:16
- *"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."* - 1st Corinthians 13:12

3. DEATH – *"of death"*

- *"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,* ***and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,*** *so he did not open his mouth."* – Isaiah 53:7
- "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." – 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

4. DREAD – *"I will fear no evil."*

- "God didn't say that we could AVOID the evil, but he didn't have to FEAR the evil." – Jack Wellman
- ***"Deliver me from evil"*** – Lord's Prayer
- ***"Don't fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."*** – Matthew 10:28
- *"The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"* – Psalm 27:1

B. COMFORT …

1. INCARNATION – *"Thou art with me."*

- *"Never leave or forsake"* – Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5
- *"No one can snatch them out of my hand"* – John 10:28-29
- Immanuel – "God with us"
- *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be* ***with you wherever you go****."* – Joshua 1:9
- *"Neither height* ***nor depth****, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* – Romans 8:38b
- *"The Lord is* ***with me****; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"* – Psalm 118:6

2. PROTECTION – *"Thy Rod"*

- Defense
- Jesus "stood up" for Stephen – Acts 7:56-60

3. DIRECTION – *"Thy Staff"*

- Waiving a stick in your outstretched arm helps you block them off and steer them in the direction you want them to go.
- *"Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock of your inheritance, who dwell alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land."* – Micah 7:14
- Catch a limping sheep that needs to have a hoof trimmed or a pregnant sheep that needs to be closed up.
- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart …" – Proverbs 3:5-6

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." – Corrie Ten Boom

4. AFFECTION – *"They comfort me"*

- "who **comforts** us in ***all our troubles***, so that we can **comfort** those in ***any trouble*** …" – 2 Cor. 1:3-5
- Not ***"what-if"***, but ***"whatever"*** – Pastor Richard Kaufman / Redeemer PC, New York City