



**PSALM 23:  
THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD  
( Psalm 23:1 )**

**Dr. Nicolas Ellen**

**I. The Characteristics of Sheep**

- A. Sheep require specialized care.
- B. Sheep cannot defend themselves or survive without external protection.
- C. Sheep have no sense of direction and have very little intelligence.
- D. Sheep don't recover well from disease and injury unless treated individually.
- E. Sheep are dirty and unable to clean themselves.<sup>1</sup>

**II. The Personal Connection to the Shepherd**

- A. The Lord the Shepherd made us His sheep. (John 10:1-10)
- B. The Lord the Shepherd placed us under His ownership and care. (John 10:1-10)
- C. The Lord the Shepherd adopted us into the family of His other sheep. (John 10:16)
- D. The Lord the Shepherd knows us intimately. (John 10:14)
- E. The Lord the Shepherd chose us to have an abundant life under His ownership and care. (John 10:1-10)

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<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Morgan, *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Resting in the Peace and Power of Psalm 23* (New York: Howard Books, 2013), 32-33.

### III. The Signs that One Belongs to the Shepherd

- A. We listen to Him unto salvation and obey His Word unto sanctification.  
(1 Peter 1:1-2, 1 John 3:6-10)
- B. We listen to Him and love others. (1 John 3:23-24)
- C. We struggle with sin, yet submit to His will by way of the Holy Spirit.  
(Romans 7:14-8:17)
- D. We are productive in character and service unto the Lord. (John 15:1-8)
- E. The world does not listen to us because we speak the things of God. (1 John 4:6)

**Key Point:** You must come to the conclusion that the characteristics of sheep are the characteristics of you. We are all sheep; we just do not all belong to the same shepherd. If you do not accept that about yourself, you cannot and do not accept God as your Shepherd. A personal connection to the Shepherd means that you have been placed under the ownership and care of God. The evidence of your connection to the Shepherd is your demonstration of submission, sacrifice, service, and suffering unto the Lord as you share in His benefits. You listen to the Word of God and follow. You are coming to know the Lord since the Lord has drawn you to Himself and knows you.