

God's Care
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Psalm 23

Does anyone care? We might not ask that out loud, but the heart of every human wonders: *"Does anyone care?"* It starts at birth. When that little baby cries, they are saying, *"Helllloo...got a wet diaper, does anyone care?"* *"Hungreeee...does anyone care?"* *"Frightened! Does anyone care?"* When the need is met: *"Yes! Someone cares!"*

Care is an interesting word, and we use it in various ways. Care can be a noun meaning provision, protection, welfare. It can also mean giving serious attention to something important, doing a task with "great care." Cares are another word for burdens or worries. Care can also be a verb - showing concern, feeling affection, or meeting needs.

- The word "care" is not mentioned in Psalm 23, yet the Psalm is about God's care.
- The Psalm begins with this truth, *"The Lord is my Shepherd..."* who cares.
- Our pride makes us think we are lions but, in our hearts, we know we are sheep. Sheep can't survive without a shepherd.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who came and died so we could have the abundant life (John 10:10,15). [Illustration: Susan's iPhone wallpaper]
- "...I shall not want." **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. [My Shepherd has proven He will meet my physical needs.]
- **3** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [When I stray, He forgives and restores us for my good and His glory.]
- **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [In the darkest, most dangerous times of life, I am confident my Shepherd will protect me.]
- **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [God makes my life with Him a "banquet" and even my enemies can see that He takes care of "sheep" like me.]
- **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. ["Surely" – we struggle with being SURE about anything; those who follow Christ can rest in the assurance of His "goodness and mercy." In John 10 when Jesus said He is the Good Shepherd He also promised: *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."* [I am SURE I will dwell with Him forever!]
- Warren Wiersbe had an interesting take on this familiar passage:
- *"This psalm is a summary of the Christian life."*
- *"Verses 1 and 2 speak of childhood. Children need protection and provision. God loves and watches over them."*
- *"Verse 3 speaks of youth. Teenagers need direction and discipline. The Great Shepherd finds these wandering youth and brings them back."*

- “Verses 4 and 5 talk about the middle years. These are not easy years, when the children are growing up and there are bills to pay.”
- “Verse 6 speaks of the mature years. We don’t understand why some things happen. But one day we’ll realize that everything is under God’s goodness and mercy. Then we’ll look ahead and see His house.”ⁱⁱ [Our eternal home with Him]
- Think about Wiersbe’s outline. The baby cries asking, “Does anyone care?”
- Teens say, “who cares?” but under their breath they add “...about me?”
- In the middle years we ask, “Will someone help me deal with the cares in life?”
- As we age, we wonder, “Does anyone care anymore?” Or, as the Beatles sang, “Will you still need me, will you still feed me, When I’m sixty four?”ⁱⁱⁱ
- Then there is the question: “Who will care for me when I can’t care for myself?”
- When someone is moved by the gospel they ask in their heart: “Does God care?”
- Sometimes, when faced with despair, even those of us who know Him as Lord find ourselves wondering, “Does Jesus really care?”
- In every stage of life, the question is the same: “Does anyone care?”
- David, a former shepherd, wrote Psalm 23 to answer that question. Jesus, the Good Shepherd cares!
- There is an old hymn, you might not even know, that beautifully answers the question: “Does Jesus Care?”

*Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?*

*Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?*

*Refrain: O yes, He cares- I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.^{iv}*

- Whenever you wonder, “Does anyone care?” just turn to Psalm 23 and claim the promises the Good Shepherd has made to those who have trusted Him as Lord. He cares for YOU!

ⁱ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Jn 10:28). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

ⁱⁱ Wiersbe, Warren W.. *Prayer, Praise & Promises: A Daily Walk Through the Psalms* (p. 60). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Writer(s): Paul McCartney, John Lennon

^{iv} https://hymnary.org/text/does_jesus_care_when_my_heart_is_pained