

## ***SURVIVOR***

### ***Psalms 23***

**Most people are familiar with the TV reality show Survivor. If we have not seen it, we have seen the promotional spots, the tribal councils, we know about people getting voted off, and we know it is a dog-eat-dog competition. Here is the next one. Hold on to your seat's men, this is scary. Twelve men will be dropped in an unidentified suburb with a van and six kids per man. Each child plays two sports, and each takes music lessons or attends a dance class. They have no access to fast food. They are required to keep the house clean, assist with all homework (receiving not less than a C+ on all papers) complete one science project, *help* cook and do laundry. They have access to TV when all chores are done. None of the TV's have remotes.**

**Competition will consist of such things as PTA meetings, cleaning up after a sick child at 3:00 AM, making a model teepee with six toothpicks, a tortilla and one magic marker, taking a night class, and arranging for trustworthy childcare. They must give a 2 week notice for a night out and have a sitter. The kids get to vote them off at tribal council.**

**The winner gets to go back to his job.**

**Survivor is more than a reality TV show, however. Survivor is how most people look at life. Life is a struggle. Competition is ruthless, and I have to look out for #1.**

**Then we come to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and staff comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies, thou anoints my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days sheep of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**Somehow this does not sound like Survivor. It tells us we are not alone in this world of conflict and struggle. I do not much like being compared to a sheep. If the Lord is our Shepherd, we must be sheep. Not very appealing because sheep are not the brightest animals. They get themselves in trouble and cannot get themselves out. They are told to walk in a straight line. They will not walk around hazardous obstacles but will walk right off the path, sometimes getting**

**hurt. Sheep will blindly, habitually, stupidly follow one another, sometimes to their death.**

**A celebrated Pastor in England was going through a hard time. He asked God for guidance, but no guidance was forthcoming. The heavens were silent. His hostess suggested he go to the study, put his feet up and relax by the fire. He sat by the promised fire and discovered a Bible that was open to Psalm 59. He began to read and when he came to the 10<sup>th</sup> verse, he found these words underlined. The words were from the KJV and said. "My God in his loving kindness shall prevent me" The word prevent as used in the KJV means "to go before." To prevent someone means to go before them. The text means, "the God of my mercy shall go before me." In the margin someone had written a paraphrase, "My God in His loving kindness, shall meet me at every corner."**

***My God, in His loving kindness shall meet me at every corner. In the words of the 23<sup>d</sup> Psalm, the Lord is your shepherd. The Lord is here to provide for you, protect you and pour out His blessings upon you. Life is more than surviving. It is an adventure in living under the grace and guidance of God. The Lord is MY shepherd, and the Lord is YOUR shepherd. Let Him guide you today and every day.***