

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 will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

(Ps. 23 ESV)

“A Letter of Recommendation”

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Pastor Nathan Hogan

Prayer: We bring our requests to the Lord through Jesus Christ.

Church Life/Greeting: In Christ, we live and fellowship together as believers. We take time to learn what is going on in our church, and to greet one another as we worship.

Prayer for Understanding: We pray that God will open our hearts and minds to the preaching of His Word.

Sermon:

- 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Lord's Supper: In taking communion together, we remember the death of Christ as we proclaim it to one another as we consume the elements.

- “How Deep The Father's Love For Us”

Praise to God (Doxology): We end our time of worship together as we resound in praises together.

- “Completely Done”

God Blesses: We go into the world this week with God's blessings as He enables us to serve Him.

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction. (2 Cor. 1:3-4 ESV)*

Order of Worship

October 21, 2018

Preparing our Hearts: If you arrive a little early, prepare your heart for worship by reading and thinking about this text:

- *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.* (Ps. 127:1 ESV)

Call to Worship:

- God calls us to worship
 - *When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.* (Ps. 126:1-3 ESV)
- We humbly respond with praise
 - "Holy, Holy, Holy"
 - Psalm 19 (May The Words Of My Mouth)"

Gospel Assurance:

- Our need for Jesus
 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (Jn. 13:34-35 ESV)
 - Prayer of Confession
- God's grace
 - *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* (1 Jn. 4:9-10 ESV)
 - "All I Have Is Christ"
 - "The Lord Is"

What we Believe: As a church we want to affirm our unity in what we believe.

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Paul consider the Corinthian church a "letter of recommendation"?
2. How are you currently ministering to people? How do you need to grow in this area?
3. Why is it encouraging for our ministry to know that Paul saw the Corinthians as a "letter of recommendation" even though they were a struggling church?
4. We can fail in ministry by 1) not doing anything or 2) doing something but denying that it is God working through us. Which is more of a struggle for you? Why?
5. How can we grow in our reliance on the Holy Spirit?

Next Week: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18