

# Ritual Versus Redemption

## Psalm 23:3

### Introduction

#### 1) Word picture – Energy Drink VS Protein Drink

- a. I have up here 2 specific drinks that are able to give you “energy”
- b. But, note they both don’t end in the same outcome

#### 2) Do you know what the main difference between the two drinks is?

- a. Substance
- b. One has sustaining substance, the other has superficial substance

#### 3) You can categorize your spiritual life into those two general categories as well

- a. Superficial or sustaining

#### 4) Question – is the substance of your spiritual life leading you to experience a crash?

- a. Is the substance of your spirituality biblical?
- b. Over the next 3 weeks we are going to answer this question by looking at Psalm 23:3

#### 5) Psalm 23:3a

- a. Do you have ritual or redemption?

### Ritual VS Redemption

#### 1) In verse 3 a shift takes place from the physical to the spiritual

- a. Verses 1-2 can be applied to the Shepherd’s physical provisions
- b. But v3 is now focused on the spiritual provisions
  - “He restoreth my soul”
- c. Important to note – following Jesus impacts our physical life as well as our spiritual life

#### 2) The phrase “restoreth my soul” poses a question to us that is vital to answer – What is the “basis” of our relationship with God?

- a. Is it based on ritual or redemption?

**3) Goal – I want you to be able to confidently answer this question and know where you currently stand in relation to God Almighty**

a. Two reasons I want you to be able to have a confident answer:

- There are two categories of people in this world
  - ➔ Described in 1 John 5:12
  - ➔ You need to know which one you belong to and why
- This is typically an aspect of faith in which Satan trips people up the most and keeps them ineffective
  - ➔ Some believe they are ok, but are deceived – James 2:19
  - ➔ Some are true believers, but get stuck in a cycle of doubt

**4) So it is vital that we know the basis of the restoration of our soul**

**Restoreth**

**1) I believe much clarity is brought to our souls when we understand the phrase “He restoreth my soul”**

- a. Restoreth – 7725 – to turn back, to return, to bring back. It carries the idea of returning to the point of departure
- b. To restore the soul means to vivify or to make alive the cast-down soul

**2) The imagery here is that of a shepherd returning and restoring a sheep, keeping them from death**

- a. Sheep are animals prone to wonder off and become “cast”
  - Cast – an old English term for a sheep that has been turned over on its back and cannot get up by itself

**3) Sheep become cast typically because of 2 reasons**

- a. When sheep lie down to get comfortable, sometimes their center of gravity shifts and they roll over with legs off the ground and become cast
- b. Or, their wool gets so matted by mud, briars, thorns, other debris from wandering off, that they get weighted down

**4) If a cast sheep is not found and restored, it most likely will die**

- a. The gases build up in the stomach and cut circulation off to extremities
- b. Predators come
- c. This is the image that David was portraying here
  - “He restoreth my soul”
  - In other words, God comes in during my desperation and brings life to my soul

**5) In this simple phrase, you see the Gospel message**

- a. We are like the helpless, hopeless sheep that has wandered away from God and is facing death
- b. God comes in with gentle grace as the Good Shepherd
- c. He brings restoration to the “calling” sheep

**6) Important side note – notice the basis of David’s restoration**

- a. “He”
- b. It may seem like a simple word, but the presence of God makes all the difference here
- c. Without the Shepherd, there would be no restoration

**Challenge**

**1) What is the object you are currently trusting on for the restoration of your soul?**

- a. Difference between acknowledgement and truth – illustrate

**2) There are really only 2 answers to the question of your trust**

- a. Ritual – self-trust – get my life in order
- b. Redemption – Savior-trust – You are my life

**3) My concern – many people say they have redemption, but they really only have ritual**

- a. My story

**4) You can’t have God’s restoration without Jesus’ redemption**

- a. Word picture – without Jesus you will “crash” into the reality of your sin

**5) I want you to take inventory right now – What position are you in?**

- a. Cast down
- b. Restored

**6) The interesting aspect of Psalm 23:3 is that the sheep was restored by the Shepherd**

a. Means the Shepherd was:

- Watching
- Willing
- Wanting

**7) Close with energy drinks**