

Daily Devotion For December 27, 2022

One of the most well known and beloved psalms in the bible is Psalm 23. Perhaps you memorized this in Sunday School class. King David writes;

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. **He** makes me lie down in green pastures, **He** leads me beside the still waters, **He** restores my soul, **He** guides me in the paths of righteousness. David is talking **about** God. **But** when he gets to the valley he is not talking about God, he is talking **TO** God. King David says, **You** are with me, **Your** rod and **Your** staff they comfort me.

It is in the valley's of life that bring us face to face with God. When we go through the rough and difficult time of life, we don't want to talk **about** God, we want to talk **TO** God. That is when Religion becomes a relationship.

In one of our Wednesday Bible studies, I asked the question, "Is Christianity a Religion?" For many people the answer is yes. But from my perspective, Christianity is not a religion. Religion deals with humankind's efforts to **reach up to God** to be in a right relationship. Christianity is just the opposite where at Christmas time **God reached down to us** in the person of His Son Jesus to have a relationship with us.

There's a big difference between religion and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Religion is about rules and regulations whereas Christianity offers freedom from rules and regulations. Christianity isn't religion; it's a personal relationship with Christ himself. Remember the most difficult people that Jesus had to deal with were the religious Pharisees.

Being a Christian is asking Christ to come and live inside of you. The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" John 1:12

Thought For Today: For you, is Christianity a religion or a relationship? Is your relationship with God dependent upon what you do for God or by what God has done for you through His son Jesus. That is a big difference?

Today's Prayer Focus: Thank God for sending his son Jesus to earth at Christmas so that we can have a personal relationship Christ. Deo Volente.