

# **Calvary Chapel Eagle Women's Bible Study**

## **A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 – Chapter 8**

### **“Thy Rod and Thy Staff They Comfort Me”**

*Start each time of study with prayer. Ask God to speak to you personally through this study. Read the whole chapter first then go back and reread it to answer the questions. Some questions may take time, especially the personal ones. It's ok to take a couple of days before you answer some of them. Use the back of the sheet if you need more room.*

The rod refers to the Shepherds power, defense, authority and comfort. We compare the Shepherds rod to the Word of God. With all the confusing voices in this self-centered world, do you turn to the Word of God for clear cut direction on how you should live your life? Do you have a life scripture? If so, share it with us. If not ask God to give you one. Note: you cannot have a life scripture if you don't spend time in the word.

Next Mr. Keller refers to the Shepherds rod, the Word of God, as a means of discipline to get a wayward sheep's attention. Have you ever been hit by the Word of God? What were the circumstances? Did you heed what you read? Did it get your attention and cause you to come running back to the Shepherd's protection?

“Passing under the rod, this meant not only coming under the owner's control and authority, but also to be subject to His most careful, intimate and first hand examination.” Do you allow yourself to (pass under the rod) have your life examined by the Word of God?

Read Psalm 139:23-24. Make this a prayer to the Lord. “If we allow this, He will get below the surface, behind the front of our old self and expose things that need to be made right.” Now, take some time, wait on the Lord to see what He shows you. What did He show you? Is there any action you need to take? If so, stop your study right now and go do it.

“Wool in the scripture speaks of the self-life, self-will, self-assertion, self-pride. God has to get below this and do a deep work in our wills to right the wrongs which are often bothering us beneath the surface.” Are you trying to put on a “good front” but deep down inside you feel like you are dying? Take these deep, buried hurts to the Lord. Once again, write them out and give them to the Lord.

Lastly the Shepherd's rod is used for protection. When Satan tried to tempt Jesus, He answered back with the Word of God. When you are harassed by the enemy, do you follow Jesus' example and turn right away to the scriptures? Read Psalm 91.

The Shepherd's staff is compared with the “comforter”, the Holy Spirit in our lives. Read John 14:17, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7-15 & Ephesians 4:30. What have you learned about the Holy Spirit from these scriptures?