

## **Psalm 23 - *In Paths of Righteousness***

The dictionary says that "path" is "A trodden track or way." It often becomes that when many people walk on a certain route which then mats down the undergrowth. Matthew 7:13-14 speaks of doors, "*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*" The analogy between "path" and "door" is that the most popular door/path is not necessarily the right one. In the case of the "door" Jesus is the only way in. The right path is the one that is given by Christ.

Hebrew for "righteousness" means "proved right" or "in good order." It is used to describe a person in a right relationship with God and trusting God's promised salvation. It is Jesus who has faithfully fulfilled the demands that we could never keep. We are right with God by faith in Jesus. God is righteous because He faithfully and justly keeps His Word.

The Lord watches over the righteous and delivers them. He sets the direction for our lives as He guides us step by step on the path of life. It is a safe path because Jesus is the one and only way. The Lord keeps me in the pure spiritual truth. That way we may not be misled by false spirits nor fall away from it because of temptation.

These are the paths which are right, paths which lead to the proper goal and destination. These paths lead to eternal life. They are paths of God's righteousness and are not our own righteousness of good works. The way to eternal life is opened by Christ's righteousness.

### **Prayer:**

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing me into your kingdom and placing me on the path of righteousness through the saving faith you have given me. Help me to continue on this righteous path. Help me to use Your Word to be a guide in this path of righteousness. Amen.