

**Saturday Night Talks**  
By F. E. DAVISON  
Rutland, Vt.

**THE SHEPHERD PSALM.**

Nov. 15, '08—(Psalm 23.)

If an audience of a thousand people was asked to mention the most beautiful portion of the entire Bible, the vast majority would name the 23rd Psalm. Probably this psalm and the Lord's Prayer are known by heart to more people than any other section of the Scriptures. This shepherd psalm has a grip on the heart of the race. It is equally appropriate at the cradle and the grave; it falls in inspiring accents from the lips of childhood, it trembles triumphantly on the lips of old age. There is no rank or condition in life to which it does not appeal. All will agree that if language was ever inspired, the 23rd psalm is inspired. Criticism devout, and criticism demotic never assaulted this great psalm. It is pre-eminent among the poetic gems of all ages.

Notice the position of the psalm. It follows the 22nd and it precedes the 24th and if you will take the trouble to look it up, you will find that it bears a relation to both. For the 22nd psalm is the psalm of the cross, and the 24th psalm is the psalm of the throne; the one speaks of crucifixion and the other of coronation. It is appropriate therefore that the 23rd psalm should picture a holy life, following soul crucifixion and antedating glory.

**Does Not Mean Death.**

Do not make the mistake of thinking that the valley of the shadow of death refers to the exit out of life. For you observe that on the other side of that experience, tribles are spread in the presence of enemies, the head is anointed with oil, the cup runneth over, and goodness and mercy follow "all the days of my life."

Many a soul passes through the valley and shadow of death a good many years before he dies. If you have never had an experience compared with which death would be welcome, you have something before you that will test every faculty of your mind, every power of your soul. John Bunyan was a good interpreter of the 23rd psalm. In his Pilgrim's Progress he makes Christian walk through the valley of the shadow of death, very soon after he starts upon his pilgrimage. It was a terrific experience, but he came out of the darkness to live among men for many years, "the valley of the shadow of death" far behind. When Christian went out of earthly life there was no gloom nor shadow, but a shining pathway and choirs of welcoming angels. No, David does not refer to the change which men call death in this psalm. He calls it the "shadow" of death and a shadow never harmed anyone. The shadow of a serpent never bit anyone. The shadow death may be dark and portentous, ghosts and hobgoblins to the terrified fancy may crowd the gloom, but they are shadows that dissolve like the baseless fabric of a dream—in the morning.

**True View of Life.**

It seems a little singular that right into the heart of this wonderful psalm such a gloomy picture should be projected. Here we have green pastures, still waters, paths of righteousness, prepared tables, anointing with oil, cups running over, goodness and mercy all the days of life. And we have also "the valley and the shadow of death." But is not that after all, a true view of life? Men are not altogether like sheep, lying down in a fat pasture, getting ready for slaughter. If you look carefully you will find in this psalm, not a sheep at all, but David, (v. 1 & 2) "I" "My" "Me." You will find the backslider (v. 3) "He restoreth my soul." You will find the traveler, (v. 4) "Thy rod and staff." You will find the warrior, (v. 5) "Mine enemies." You will find the priest, (v. 5) "Anointest my head with oil." You will find the permanent resident "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." In other words, the Shepherd leads us, green pastures are beneath us, still waters are beside us, a prepared table is before us, enemies are around us, goodness and mercy are following us, the house of the Lord is awaiting us, but to reach it somewhere on the journey we shall have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death. Where there is so much brightness there must of necessity be deep shadows.

**Best Things Come Afterwards.**

And lest anyone should shrink and hesitate about that experience, observe that the best things in life come afterwards. On this side of the valley are green pastures and still waters, experiences of comfort and undisturbed, untried repose; on the other side are banquets and anointings and feasting, right in the presence of conquered foes, cups running over, eternal habitations occupied. Jesus Christ himself had His Gethsemane on the way to the throne, and no man is prepared to look with a level head and a correct judgment at life until he has passed through a midnight wrestle with Jacob or a Gethsemane struggle with Christ. Christ went to the Cross as a conqueror, but in Gethsemane he sweat blood. He was the true shepherd of the sheep and His sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

**ORDINANCE No. 23.**

AN ORDINANCE, authorizing The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain and operate its posts, poles, cables, wires and all other necessary overhead apparatus, on, over and along; and its conduits, ducts, mains, pipes, cables, wires, manholes, distributing poles and all other necessary underground appliances, on, under and through, the streets, alleys and highways within the limits of the Borough of Orangeville in the County of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania; and prescribing the manner of placing the same, and regulating the use of the streets, alleys and highways by said Company.

The Burgess and Council of the Borough of Orangeville in the County of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania, do ordain and enact as follows:

SECTION 1. That permission be and is hereby granted to The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain and operate its posts, poles, cables, wires and all other necessary overhead apparatus, on, over and along; and its conduits, ducts, mains, pipes, cables, wires, manholes, distributing poles and all other necessary underground appliances on, under and through, the streets, alleys and highways within the limits of the Borough of Orangeville in the County of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania; subject to the following provisions:

SECTION 2. That all poles erected by said Company shall be neat and symmetrical, and shall not be less than twenty (20) feet above the surface of the ground, and shall be so located as in no way to interfere with the safety or convenience of persons traveling on or over the said streets, alleys and highways; and in the work of installing and maintaining its underground system, said Company shall not open or encumber more of any street, alley or highway than will be necessary to enable it to perform same with proper economy and efficiency; nor shall it permit such opening or encumbrance to remain for a longer period than shall be necessary to do the work for which said opening shall have been made.

SECTION 3. That all work done under the provisions of this ordinance in said Borough shall be subject to the supervision of the Highway Committee thereof, and said Company shall replace and properly relay any sidewalk or street pavement which may have been displaced or damaged by it in the construction and maintenance of its system in said Borough.

SECTION 4. That space on the poles erected or in the conduits laid under the provisions of this ordinance shall be reserved, free of charge for the purpose of carrying a wire or wires of any Fire Alarm or Police Telegraph system now in use, or which may hereafter be adopted by said Borough; in no case, however, shall said wire or wires carry high-tension currents.

SECTION 5. That the said The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania shall be permitted to place its wires on the poles of other companies, having the right to maintain same within said Borough upon such arrangement as the two companies may agree.

SECTION 6. That the said Company shall maintain all poles, cables, wires, conduits, ducts, mains, pipes, manholes, distributing poles and all other apparatus erected or constructed under the provisions of this ordinance, in good and safe order and condition; and shall at all times fully indemnify, protect and save harmless the said Borough from and against all actions, claims, suits, damages and charges, and against all loss and necessary expenditures, arising from the erection, construction and maintenance of its system in said Borough; or from its neglect or failure to maintain the said apparatus in good and safe order and condition.

SECTION 7. That nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to grant unto the said The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania any exclusive right, or to prevent a grant of similar privileges to other companies.

SECTION 8. That The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania shall, under its seal and by its proper officers, within sixty (60) days from the date of the passage of this ordinance, signify in writing its acceptance of all the terms, conditions, regulations and restrictions in this ordinance contained; in default of which, this ordinance shall become null and void and of no effect.

SECTION 9. That all advertising or printing fees incurred by the Borough of Orangeville, in the County of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania, in connection with the passage of this ordinance, shall be paid by The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

Ordained and enacted into an ordinance, this 5th day of October, A. D. 1908.

C. M. COOKE,  
President of Council  
CLINTON HERRING,  
Secretary.  
H. B. LOW,  
Chief Burgess.

**LEGAL NOTICE.**

Notice is hereby given by John A. Moran, of Centralia, Pa., a registered student at law in the office of William Chrisman, of the Columbia county bar, Bloomsburg, Pa., and the Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, Pa., that he will, on or before the 17th day of November, 1908, file his credentials with, and make application to, the State Board of Law Examiners, to be examined by said Board on the 8th and 9th days of December, 1908, for admission to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.  
10-22-08.

**ELECTION NOTICE.**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Bloomsburg Land Improvement Company for the election of a President, Board of Directors and Treasurer and the transaction of the general business of the Company will be held at the office of the Company in the Ent Building, Bloomsburg, Pa., on Monday, the 23rd day of November A. D. 1908, at two o'clock in the afternoon.  
N. U. FUNK, Secy.  
10-20-08

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