

Great Expectations – Familiar Words for Unfamiliar Times
Part #3 – **“Thankfully ... We Belong to God”**
Sunday October 12, 2008
Audio available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio>

*“Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are **his people**, the sheep of **his pasture**. Enter his courts with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name.”* (Psalm 100:3-4)

1. **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me ...”** (V-4)

→ Death is a valley and there is no way ***around*** it

“Everyone must die and after that be judged by God.”
Hebrews 9:27 (TEV)

“... for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.” Ecclesiastes 7:2 (NIV)

→ Death is a shadow and there is a way ***through*** it

2. **“... your rod and your staff, they comfort me,”** (V-4)

The Rod ...

*“A club breeds fear, not comfort ... until you consider whose **hand** holds the club!”*
Anonymous

→ Loved enough to be ***disciplined***

→ Valued enough to be ***protected***

The Staff ...

→ Cherished enough to be ***restrained***

→ Regarded enough to be ***rescued***

“All around me, I see evidence of God's staff sustaining the fallen and God's rod striking those who call it down on themselves. And like the psalmist, I am comforted.”
(Rabbi Kirschner)

1. **“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”** (V-5)

John 21:9

“Judas was allowed to see the supper, but he wasn't allowed to stay there.” (Max Lucado)

→ Favored enough to be well-***fed***

→ Esteemed enough to be well-***guarded***

1. **“You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.”** (V-5)

In ancient Israel, oil was applied to sheep for three reasons: To repel insects, to heal wounds and to prevent conflict.

→ Anointed to help us cope with ***bugs***

'Bugs bug people, but they can kill sheep! The shepherd anoints the sheep and covers their head with an oil like repellent – the fragrance keeps the insects away and the flock at peace.'

→ Anointed to help us keep away ***disease***

→ Anointed to help us ***slide*** off of one another

Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. (Amen)