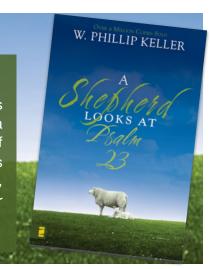


## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

## A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23

by W. PHILLIP KELLER

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want..." Travel the shepherd's path to the green pastures and cool, refreshing waters of Psalm 23. As a shepherd, Phillip Keller shares his insights into the life and character of sheep---and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them. This beloved classic will give new meaning to the ageless Shepherd Psalm, enriching your trust in and love for the Lord who watches closely over you.





STAYING **ALERT** by Ken Ramey Pastor-Teacher

On my recent flight back from New Zealand, I watched the Academy Awardwinning movie Life of Pi. For those of you who haven't seen it, it's an epic tale of a teenage boy from India who survives a shipwreck and spends 227 days stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. At first, Pi is terrified of the ferocious beast and builds a small raft from salvaged supplies and tethers it to the stern of the lifeboat and retreats to it. Over time he trains Richard Parker with food and a whistle and asserts himself as the alpha animal and is eventually able to share the boat with the hungry tiger. As the boat floats through days and weeks and months, a bond grows between Pi and Parker. At one point in their adventure together, Pi writes in his journal, "My fear of him keeps me alert."

While I didn't appreciate the nebulous references to "God" or the strange amalgamation of Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity in the movie, that one line serves as an appropriate analogy of how we as Christians should think of and relate to our archenemy Satan. We are commanded in God's Word to "Be of adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). The devil relentlessly stalks every one of us watching and waiting for just the right moment to pounce on us and try to devour and destroy us. And while his power is limited, he is a formidable foe who we should never underestimate. We would be wise to live in healthy fear of him which will keep us alert at all times.

We must remain ever vigilant, always looking for places of danger where the devil could easily attack us. It's helpful to know where he's attacked us before in order to avoid the people, places, and situations that he could possibly use to make us stumble and fall into sin. The Bible instructs us to not "give the devil an opportunity" (Eph. 4:27), to "stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11), and to "resist the devil" (James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9) and he will flee from us. Even though the devil is vicious and devious, we must keep in mind that he is a defeated enemy whose been rendered powerless by the death of Jesus on the cross (Heb. 2:14) and he is doomed to spend eternity in hell (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

At the end of The Life of Pi, the two unlikely survivors eventually wash ashore in a storm and Richard Parker

sober spirit, be on the alert. Your disappears into the woods never to be seen again. This was a sad day for Pi, but the day the devil disappears into the lake of fire for all eternity will be a glorious day for those of us who have battled him all our lives. In heaven, we will finally be able to rest from our grueling vigilance against the devil. But, until then, our fear of him must keep us



WORSHIP GOD 2013 by Blake Boys Associate Pastor Music & Media

At the end of this month, I will have the privilege of attending Worship God 2013 in Lousville, Kentucky with eight other Lakesiders. Worship God is a conference hosted by Sovereign Grace Music aimed at serving, refreshing and challenging those who serve in the music ministry at their local churches. This will be my third Worship God conference and I am eager to attend again this year for a few reasons.

First, the conference helps me refocus as a worship leader. In our culture, the purpose of music and media and how it is used in the local church can be hard to pinpoint. Worship God brings pastors, musicians, and others who serve in the local church together to look at God's word to remember what



the Church's focus really is in all forms of worship - to magnify the greatness of God through Jesus Christ by the power of His Spirit.

Second, the conference challenges me to grow. Whether it is a breakout session in leadership or just by being exposed to other musicians and philosophies of ministry, I find that each year, *Worship God* helps me challenge myself to serve better, practice more, and devote my heart with more passion to the only One deserving of our worship.

Third, the conference is a refreshing time of worship through music. I'm excited that we will get to worship through hearing God's word, singing, praying and learning while being served so well by those at Sovereign Grace Ministries. At times, it's good for me to stop and not be the one serving, leading and working in order to be still and reflect on things I miss in my busyness. Worship God does an awesome job providing exactly that, specifically for those involved in the music ministry at their local churches.

So I ask that you pray for those of us attending July 31 - August 3. Pray that God would draw our focus back to the good news that we have been redeemed by the incredible sacrifice of His only Son. Pray that we would remember our first love and that God would grant us continued faithfulness as we seek to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.



## LIVING SELFISHLY OR SELFLESSLY LIVING?

**by Kelli Ramey**Director of
Women's Ministries

Since returning from New Zealand on June 7, I have been consistently challenged by one of the messages I had the blessing of teaching. It was entitled <u>The Mind of Christ - Humbling Ourselves Like Jesus</u>. Taken from the

passage in Philippians 2:1-11, I focused on two things, the way Jesus "Emptied Himself" (v.7) and the way Jesus "Humbled Himself" (v.8). Most of us as Christians stand in awe of what Jesus did for us by acknowledging how He emptied Himself and humbled Himself, but we are not necessarily willing to do the same, even though He clearly calls us as His disciples to "Follow Him"! Jesus left the perfect place, heaven, to come to an imperfect place, earth, to serve imperfect people, us, and humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (v.8)!!

Paul says that we are to have this same mindset toward one another or else we are selfish (vv.3-5)! We are to be willing to give up (empty ourselves) whatever means the most to us for the sake of serving others. And, we are to demonstrate a life of complete humility (Jesus had no home or even bed of His own!!) by counting others as more important than ourselves. Why? Because Jesus did that for us!! What amazing grace, how can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me?! When we come to truly comprehend the humble, self-emptying love that Jesus lived out for us, then and only then will we be able to live that way for others!

















## **Weekly Schedule**

• SUNDAY

8:00am Worship Service 9:30am Equipping Hour 10:45am Worship Service

• WEDNESDAY

5:30pm Fellowship Supper

6:30pm Summer Super Study (Students & Adults)

Special Children's Program (Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Nursery/Toddler Care

For information on upcoming events visit us at

www.LakesideBibleChurch.org

or call (936) 582-1977



