

Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

Nov. Vol. 1-25

NOVEMBER

Orange pumpkins full and round
cornstalks gathered on the ground.
Blue skies clear and autumn bright
harvest moons and frost at night.
Leaves raked high in great big piles
November sights bring thankful smiles.



Corny Corner



The other day I yelled into a colander and I strained my voice.

Scientists have crossed a watermelon with a cauliflower. People who eat the new variety get a sense of sadness called meloncauli.

If your feet fall asleep and they never wake up, are they coma toes?

My husband had terrible headaches whenever I cooked with wheat, barley, or rice. He was really suffering from my grains.

In England it's called a lift. In America it's called an elevator. I guess people are just raised differently.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. -James 5:7

Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me

written by Marla Carter

Psalm 23 may be one of the best-known passages in the whole Bible. Many of us learned it as children, and its words have comforted hearts at bedsides, gravesides, and everywhere in between. It's the Shepherd's psalm—the one that reminds us that God provides, protects, and leads us home. The very last verse ties the whole thing together: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

When David wrote "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life," he wasn't just hoping for the best—he was certain of it. "Surely," he said. Not maybe. Not if I'm lucky. Surely. That's a comforting word for anyone who's lived long enough to know that not every day feels good, and not every season feels merciful.

Here's something beautiful about that word *follow*. In the original Hebrew, the word is *radaph*, and it means "to pursue," or "to chase after." That means God's goodness and mercy aren't just tagging along politely behind us—they are actively chasing us down! His love is determined. His mercy refuses to lose sight of us, even when we wander off the path.

Think of that! The Shepherd isn't waiting for us to come find Him. He's sending goodness and mercy to track us down like loyal sheepdogs who never stop until we're safely back in the fold. And sometimes, we only realize that when we look back. We see how His hand guided us when we thought we were lost—the disappointments that turned into blessings, the waiting that kept us safe, the closed doors that were really His mercy in disguise.

continued on page 3...

Goodness and mercy don't always make the road easy, but they make it blessed. They show up in a friend's kindness, a nurse's patience, a sunrise through your window, or that quiet peace that comes when you stop worrying for a minute and remember Who's in charge.

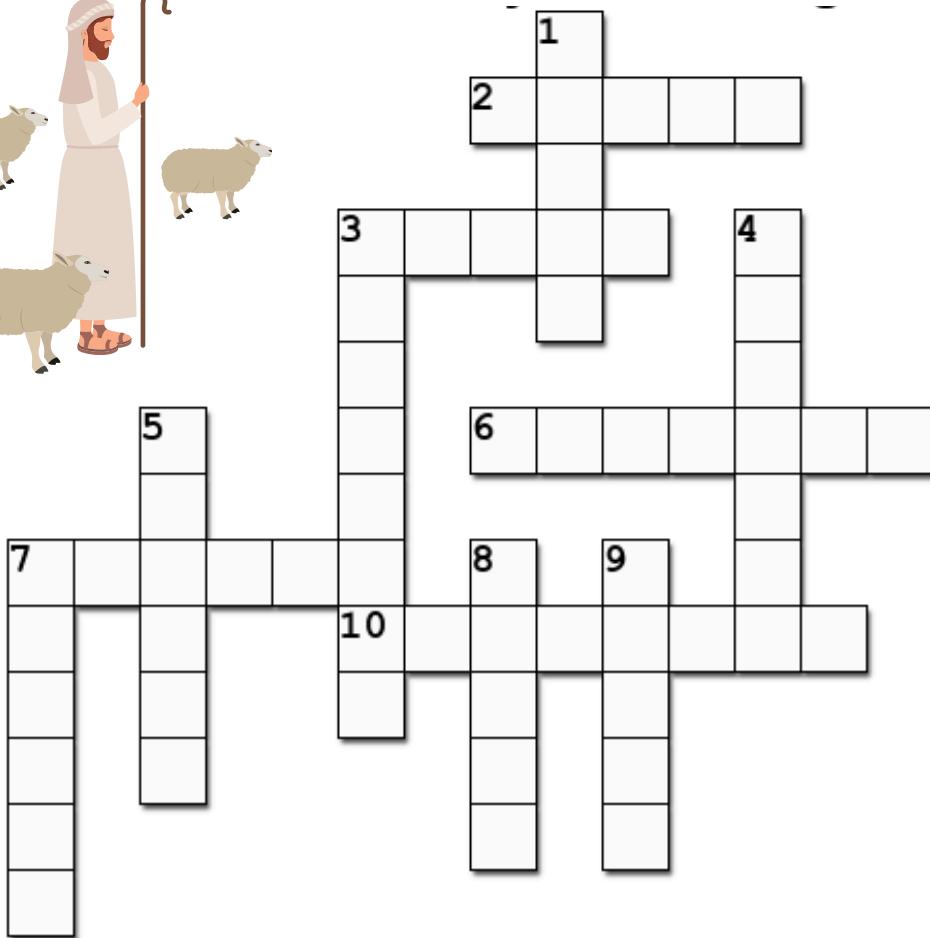
Then David ends with this promise: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." That's home. Not a temporary stay or a borrowed bed—but forever. For a shepherd who spent his life outdoors, that must have sounded like heaven itself. No more wandering, no more danger—just rest, belonging, and the presence of the One who loved him all along.

That's home. Not a temporary stay or a borrowed bed—but forever. For a shepherd who spent his life outdoors, that must have sounded like heaven itself. No more wandering, no more danger; just rest, belonging, and the presence of the One who loved him all along. Someday, when we step through those doors ourselves, we'll realize that goodness and mercy weren't far behind at all, they were escorting us home every step of the way.

So today, take comfort. You are being followed—pursued—by the love of God. Behind you are goodness and mercy; ahead of you is home. And the Shepherd? He's smiling because He already knows how your story ends.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for chasing us with goodness and mercy even when we wander. Help us to see Your hand in the past, trust You in the present, and look forward to forever in Your house. Amen.

GOODNESS AND MERCY FOLLOW ME



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

peace grace leads protect sheep forever pursue mercy Psalms shepherd

surely goodness

Across

2. a shepherd ___ his sheep on the right path
3. favor from God that we don't earn or deserve
6. to keep safe and secure
7. to follow someone or something in an effort to catch them
10. one who care for and leads sheep

Down

1. freedom from worry, fear, anxiety
3. in the Bible, this word often means God's never-ending kindness and love
4. I will dwell in the house of the Lord ___
5. not maybe, but ___
7. the book of the Bible that contains songs written by David
8. David said these two things would follow him: goodness and ___
9. the Bible compares people to this animal