

Psalm 23:3b: Wheel-tracks of Righteousness

Simmons, Tracy Lee. "English, RIP." National Review. 12 Feb., 1996, pp. 55-56. [A review of The Inarticulate Society: Eloquence and Culture in America, by Tom Shachtman.]

The verb nahal means "to lead with care someone who is helpless":

Isaiah 40:11 - Like a Shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom. He will gently lead [*nahal*] the nursing ewes.

Nahal has a synonym, the verb, *nahag*, which means "to orderly lead a group of animals or people to an intended destination either by forcible driving or leading." Both *nahal* and *nahag* are found in one verse:

Isaiah 49:10b - He who has compassion on them will lead them [*nahag*] and will guide them [*nahal*] to springs of water.

As the Lord's sheep we are in need of constant care. He leads us to the pastures of choice grass and waters of refreshment which is Bible class. For the reversionist this involves the first two problem-solving devices: Rebound and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

After power has been restored to the listless hands the Lord guides the believer along the wheel-tracks. The wheel-tracks were established by Him in the incarnation. If we stray from the path, He gets us back on track by either the direct or indirect method.

Those who consistently train in the gymnasium learn to pick up the "signs" which blaze the trail. They are the imperative moods of Scripture. As you accumulate a backlog of these indicators, they serve as tools for orientation which facilitate adjustment. This is how God guides us from point a, which is spiritual childhood, to point b, which is spiritual adulthood.

And so, David confirms all of this when he says, "*He leads me in wheel-tracks ...*" The wheel-tracks in which David is led are identified next by the noun: *tsedeq* - "*righteousness.*"

As we learned from Isaiah 40:11, the righteousness referred to here is not imputed righteousness at salvation but the development of personal righteousness in the stream of consciousness of the believer. At salvation we are declared righteous by the justice of God as told by David in:

Psalm 103:12 - As far as east is from west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us,

But imputed righteousness has no capacity in the execution of the Christian way of life. Imputed righteousness is a grace act administered by God and recognizes our eternal status before His divine justice by means of faith alone in Christ alone.

However, we are not taken immediately into the eternal state. We are allowed to remain here in order to carry out our duties in the Angelic Conflict.

We have obligations before God which must be accomplished in accordance with His will and plan. A system has been established by which the ignorant believer may acquire the essential information to carry out his assignments. Field orders are issued in writing and are contained the Christian soldier's field manual called The Bible.

Orders are issued there but are concealed in cryptic form. The only way the ignorant soldier can know, understand, and apply his orders is for a special Instructor who understands the message to decipher it for him.