

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Intro: I am hopelessly lost and will always get hopelessly lost left to my own devices.
I mean literally.

- I never have a clue where I am going. I am directionally challenged, geographically dyslexic
- One time as a kid...dad gave me \$10 and told me to go get sodas
- Before maps and Google maps, in high school I was utterly at the mercy of Mapquest printouts and hand written directions
- During the time I lived in SF.

Now what is true of me directionally is actually true of all of us spiritually as we walk this life.
The great hope of Psalm 16 we can trust God to preserve us and ultimately bring us into his presence where there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore at his right hand.

So how to do we get from here to there?

We must know God as he's been revealed to us in Psalm 16. We have three signposts to guide us along the way: God our Refuge, God our Portion, and God our Joy

God Our Refuge (vv1-4)

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
Psalm 16:1

We don't know why exactly David is crying out these words but what we do know is this: David cried out to God for help, strength, preservation

He is saying, "God I need more than a cathartic experience to well up from within myself...I need a strength and a keeping that comes from outside of me."

"Anything is good for us, if it leads us to hearty, believing prayer." -William S. Plumer

Wherever you find yourself despairing, in danger of losing hope, about to give up, it will actually work for your good if you allow it to drive you to turn in hearty, believing prayer. (turn)

Hear the prayer! His words are Godward. You God, must preserve me, for YOU are my refuge. All I am is one who has no hope without you. All I am is the one that needs protecting

God you are my refuge. My safety. My strong tower.

The foundation of his cry for preservation is shown in v2.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

Psalms 16:2

We see in the parallelism of v2: something poetry is able to do that logical prose can't express

David is declaring truth and then exposing the depth of the truth by giving poetic parallel

1. The LORD Yahweh is my Lord
2. I have no good apart from Yahweh.

What does Yahweh mean? LORD in all caps refers to the personal name of God. In Ex 3, God revealed who he is to Moses

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 3:13-14

Yahweh: The one who created the ends of the earth. Who spoke galaxies into being. The one for whom time is a construct. The eternal. Before Abraham was, before you and I ever were, Yahweh always had been, is, and ever shall be.

The One who is self-existent, eternal, author of all life HE is our Lord, our Master, our Provider.

Therefore, because all that is comes from him, we have no good apart from him.

1. All my good comes from him
2. With him and NOTHING ELSE, I am rich
3. With everything else, but not him, I am the most poor.

Gifts apart from him are meaningless, because all their goodness is from him.

Food tastes good and is meant to be a highway to make us to ponder the fact that God didn't have to make food taste good, but he did.

Friendship, romance, family are strong bonds and longings to be connected that are meant to make us awe at the one who truly is and always has been Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

That the Eternal Creator of the cosmos, the one who has all wisdom, power, and authority is OUR LORD is of infinite value.

Because Yahweh is our Lord, we take refuge in him
Because Yahweh is our Lord, we have no good apart from him.
Because Yahweh is our Lord, we delight in the company of saints and not those who run after other gods.

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.
The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.
Psalm 16:3-4

Do you love to be with the people of God?
-David finds in time of trouble, other than God, next closest to his heart are the brethren.
-I know personally, the power of friends
I know of coming to men's group
-If you're going to make it in life, your must delight be in being with the people of God!

On the other side of the coin, you have those who run after another god, who are willing to sacrifice, compromise, and take the names of other gods on their lips.
-brothers and sisters, you need to know if you are to make it faithfully to the end, your closest companions, the ones in whom you delight, cannot be those who hate God.
-Psalm 1 warns us of fellowship with those who do not delight in God

the truth is we can only have deepest fellowship with those who run after God.
-we still have friendships and relationships with unbelievers, but for sustaining power and influence on our lives, we need to be with the people of God.
-and hear this warning and plea, if you are running after other gods- be they money, power, sex, fame- your sorrows will only multiply. Come to Jesus and find your sorrows wash away

He is our Refuge, He is our Lord, His people are our people, and next we see he is our portion.
God Our Portion (vv5-8)

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
Psalm 16:5-6

1. Because God is portion we can have contentment
When we find ourselves in times of trial, it can so often seem that if only if I could have THAT
-a spouse, a baby, a better job, health, a car, believing children, a better marriage

David says, God is what I would would choose. He's my portion and my cup.
-portion has behind it the idea of land, where God apportioned to the 12 tribes different plots
-cup has the idea of blessing. We know this from Psalm 23 (my cup overflows)

The flipside of "I have no good apart from you" is "in you, I have all my good."

2. Because God is our portion, we can trust his care and control

“you hold my lot”

-lot here can mean either land or a device to cast (like U and Th) that showed God’s will

But look at the turn from declarations of who God is- chosen portion and cup to personal trust in his sovereign care.

ex. “All the days of my life?”

Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

Psalms 139:16

Here we say, Yahweh, you are my good, you are enough for me, you are my treasure and I trust you with everything. You hold my lot. This is really true wisdom.

“In many things the righteous is wise. He puts truth before error, eternity before time, saints before sinners, the spirit before the flesh; but the height of his [wisdom] is in his preferring God’s will to his own, God’s favor to that of all creatures, and God himself to the universe beside.”-William S. Plumer

-eternity comes into view.

-v6 David is speaking of his current lot in life. He’s had to shout out “Preserve me!” and yet is able after thinking on who God is, I am in a good place. Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

-If this was written in one of the three different times he was about to lose his life, others would be saying, David if you die, you’ll have no inheritance!

But David’s knowledge of his inheritance goes far past just this sixty, seventy, eighty years

3. Because God is our portion, we look to him for counsel

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

Psalms 16:7

God’s portion, that is his sufficiency is closely linked to his counsel and his Word.

-Psalm 1 tells us blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked...but who mediates on the law of the LORD. Psalm 19 says God’s Word is more valuable than

David says, even in the night, my heart instructs me.

-how is this possible?

-he says in another place (Psalm 119:11) that he stores God’s Word up in his heart

-and then in v8 he gives the key to his confidence

4. Because God is our portion, we set him before us

I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Psalms 16:8

How does David set the LORD before him?

1. He cries out to God in prayer
2. He listens to the Lord’s counsel
3. He preaches to his own heart
4. He delights in being with God’s people
5. He puts his eyes on eternity

Let me in love do what a dear Pastor did for me in the midst of my own doubts about the future and fears that if I don't make something happen for myself, I'll miss out.

ex. with Ben

God Our Joy (vv9-11)

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 16:9-11

Here, David's prayer breaks forth in emotion and feeling and cathartic joy!

Therefore: Because God is my refuge.
Because Yahweh is my Lord
Because his people are my people
Because he's my chosen portion and my cup
Because you hold my lot
Because he gives me counsel
Because I've set him before me and as surely as he is the unmovable mover I'll not be moved

Because of all he is and has done for me and will ever do, my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices.

This is truly the Biblical pattern. True worship follows true knowledge of who God is. The mind that is filled with the truth of who God is bursts over in joy, gladness, and worship!

How can we be utterly convinced of this?
His joy even gives way to speaking something greater than what he knew he was speaking.

Peter and Paul quoted these verses in Acts as Messianic prophecy of what Christ would do.

"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.
Acts 2:29-32

What David knew in part, we know in full. David knew his body would see decay and death, but he believed God's promise that one from his line would forever reign.

We can be utterly assured that God will preserve us. He will not abandon our souls to Sheol. He will not let us see corruption.

Because Christ died in our place and rose from the dead, we who have trusted in him are united in him and we know that whatever befalls us on this earth, we will be resurrected with him when he comes again!

Therefore, cry out preserve me God! And be utterly assured that by grace through faith in Christ, you have had the path of life made known to you! It is belief in Jesus!

You know in his presence there is fullness of joy-because his Spirit has been richly poured out and one day we will be fully with him

You know that when he makes all things new, there will be pleasures forevermore.

Church, our future is incredibly bright. Set the Lord before you always. Onward and upward. Don't lose heart. Find delight in being with the saints. Spread this news abroad. In Christ, we have the victory!