

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 16

The Believer's Cry of Confidence

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: Psalm 16:1

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. There is such practical instruction to the believer here - written by David, and others in "real-time" (while right in the middle of life, with all its ups and downs). No airy-fairyland approach - just the constant development of confidence and grace!
- C. Psalms is written from the heart, FOR the heart. Every Christian benefits best from the Psalms, when it is read daily, and hungrily!

II. Background

- A. This Psalm is a victory song – sung on the right side of confidence! On the GOD side!
- B. It is written by David, but it points to the future Messiah
- C. A Messianic Psalm – many of them (i.e., Psalm 22)

III. Lesson - Psalm 16 - The Christian's Cry of Confidence

A. I Trust Only in God (Psalm 16:1)

1. God expects a believer to TRUST Him (the theme of the first 41 Psalms)
 - a. Funny how we SAY we believe, but we really don't!
 - b. It is the arm of flesh that will fail you!
2. David only prays for one thing – for God to preserve him: protect him. That's a good prayer. We pray, Lord, lead me not into temptation – trails, troubles!!!
3. Some Things God Preserves – holds together – keeps from falling apart
 - a. His Word (Ps 12:6,7) – inspired AND preserved!
 - b. His People – SAVED and PRESERVED
 - 1) The Jewish nation - the remnant (Gen 45:5-7; Dt 6:24; Josh 24:17; Rom 11:5; Isa 46:4)
 - 2) NT believers (2Tim 4:18)
 - 3) Not everyone is preserved and protected (Psalm 31:23)
 - c. His Servant - the one doing God's will (2Sam 8:6,14; 1Thes 5:24)
 - d. His Creation (Neh 9:6) – He is holding it together right now (Col 1:16,17)
 - e. His Son (Ps 16:10) as you will see

B. I Bless God's People (Psalm 16:2,3; Gal 6:10)

1. Our good works aren't towards God
 - a. We have nothing to prove towards God
 - b. We worship God not in actions, but in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)
2. But our good works now are towards OTHERS
3. Notice how the saints are in the earth, not just in heaven (2Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1,2)
4. Believers are called “the excellent” – excellent in spirit, excellent in life (Dan 6:3)
5. Do YOU bless God's people? Or just take up space? Do you hang around and minister to them through just listening to them and edifying them?

C. I am Careful How I Worship (Psalm 16:4)

1. Be careful how you worship
 - a. Reject all other gods
 - b. Reject any drink offering of blood - catholicism!
 - c. Reject even the very mention of the names of other gods
 - 1) In the Old Testament, it was Ashteroth, Baalim, Moloch (each of these are generic titles of the gods, not their actual names) - the majority are not mentioned in the Bible, because the Bible cleanly ignores their names. We revere the name of our God (Jehovah)!

- 2) In the Modern era people constantly talk about “their” gods:
 - a) Marilyn Monroe - sex
 - b) Michael Jackson - entertainment
 - c) Eric Cantona - sports
 - d) Pope John Paul II - false piety, and self-righteousness
 - e) Bill Gates - money
 - f) Richard Dawkins - science
- 3) When people make people into "gods" - Christians ought to despise the use of the names of the those people! Amen!
- d. Modern Christianity mainly talks about this author or that great leader – more than about Jesus!!!
2. Why? Because ALL other “religions” and faiths lead to multiplied sorrows
 - a. Look at the fruits of celibacy
 - b. Look at the fruits of the catholic priesthood
 - c. Look at the results of religion all over the world
 - d. POVERTY is more often the result of religion, instead of the other way around!
 - e. Our God gives real joy!

D. I Thank God for Where He Has Put Me (Psalm 16:5,6)

1. David was thankful for everything (Heb 13:15)...
 - a. Looking back at the 7 hard years of hiding from Saul’s spear
 - b. Looking at all the battles – where he had to lead and make hard decisions
 - c. Looking around at his kingdom that God had put him into – David didn’t go looking to be king
 - d. Looking at his family
2. Be thankful, grateful for the following things:
 - a. That God is your portion, no matter what you have, or don't have (Heb 13:5,6). He is your inheritance, like with the tribe of Levi (Josh 13:33)
 - b. That God takes care (maintains) your lot
 - c. That you have a goodly, excellent heritage - you are in good company, and are part of a Godly family history
 - 1) All the saints of the past - Ab, Noah, Moses, David, Daniel, Ruth, Sarah, Peter, Stephen, etc.
 - 2) All the saints of today - fellow Christians
3. I can add
 - a. That I am not in hell right now
 - b. That I am not in some pub somewhere trying to drown my guilt
 - c. That I have a family, and children, and a church, and a Bible!
4. God has given me a lot!
5. Where has God put YOU?
 - a. In your marriage
 - b. In your home – you had no choice maybe – but God put you there
 - c. At your job right now
 - d. In this church
 - e. In a holding pattern, not getting anywhere
 - f. Realise that THE LORD HIMSELF is your inheritance – your portion
 - g. Even if it doesn’t look like much, you have a godly heritage as a Christian!!!
6. But it is better than all that! Like David, I am so thankful that He is teaching me, moulding me – especially in the dark times!
 - a. Allow God to teach you, and instruct you - counsel you - through His word, and preaching, and study
 - b. Allow God to teach you through the "reigns" - His pulls, and twists along the way - His guiding hand - He knows the way, we follow instructions like a horse does - not always verbally, but by pulls, and tugs, and the spurs! Ouch!
 - c. Allow God to teach you through the night seasons: sickness, darkness, death, poverty, sorrow, emptiness, loneliness, persecution, cold, wetness, defeats, troubles, adversities, etc.
 - d. The leadership of the Lord - He WILL lead (16:8), will counsel. Jesus (as a Man) relied totally on God's will, and direction (Jn 8:28; 5:19; 5:30; 6:38; 12:49; Lk 22:42). *We all should* (Pr 3:5,6)!!!
 - e. A thankful Christian is yielded to God’s teaching them!

f. A complaining, mean Christian will never realise just how GOOD God is being to them!

E. I Worry Only About the Lord (Psalm 16:8)

1. I keep Him at my right hand – like my weapon
2. I don't leave Him in church, or at home
3. I ask Him to go with me
4. He is, and always will be, all I ever need

F. I Enjoy My Christian Life (Psalm 16:7,9)

1. My heart is GLAD – most people's hearts are a MESS
2. My glory, my praise rejoices – my glory is my reflecting back to God HIS goodness towards me (2Cor 4:15). Rebound means "to be sent, rolled or driven back."
3. Bless the Lord sometimes - instead of always wanting to be blessed
4. The Joy of the Lord is better than anything you have ever enjoyed before (Ps 16:11; Heb 12:3)

G. The Messiah Part (Psalm 16:10) – praise God for the Messiah part of your life... The part that ONLY HE could do!

1. A prophecy about the resurrection
2. The Messiah was going to go to hell
3. Not to stay there and suffer there
4. But to dump all our sins there (2Cor 5:21; Ps 103:10-12)
5. And Jesus ended up in Paradise
6. Three days later, He arose from the grave. The Messiah would not stay dead - He had to die, but could not be held (Ps 16:10; Rom 6:9) - His flesh would not decay - see corrupt
7. Hell is NOT for the believer - can only refer to the Messiah
 - a. No believer goes to hell (Ps 86:13; Pr 23:14; Mt 10:28)
 - b. Every unbeliever goes to hell (Mt 23:33)
 - c. Christ went there for everyone (2Cor 5:22; Gal 3:13; 1Pet 2:24; Heb 9:28), but didn't stay (Eph 4:8-10; Acts 2:22-28)
 - d. Hell is not the grave (Luk 16:19-31)

H. I Am on the Path of Life (Psalm 16:11)

1. No longer wandering aimlessly, and heading towards hell!
2. Shown to me day by day, step by step – you are never going to find it by accident (Cf Isa 53:6)
 - a. By God's word (Ps 119:105)
 - b. By walking very close to God
 - c. By receiving Godly pleasures from God's right hand – Jesus
3. Hey! You can get off of this path! All too easily!
 - a. By bad attitudes
 - b. By not paying attention to the details – just floating along
 - c. By losing your grip on the wheel
 - d. By getting your attention diverted elsewhere – temptations!

IV. Conclusion – How to be a Confident Christian...

- A. **Trust Only in God**
- B. **Bless God's People**
- C. **Be Careful How You Worship**
- D. **Thank God for Where He Has Put You**
- E. **Worry Only About the Lord**
- F. **Enjoy Your Christian Life**
- G. **Praise God for the Messiah Part of your life**
- H. **Stay on the Path of Life**