

CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

Text: Psalm 16

INTRO: Scholars often divide this psalm into two distinct sections: the first 7 verses applying to David & verses 8-11 to Christ. It is certain that vs. 8-11 apply to Jesus, as both Paul & Peter clearly state. It is my conviction that the first 7 verses also are fulfilled in Jesus, and we will give consideration to the evidence that the psalm foretells both the humanity & the Deity of Jesus. In His devotion to the will of the Father, the Lord was an example to us of what every servant of God should strive to be.

I. GOD'S SERVANTS NEED TO EXERCISE COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD, vs. 1-4.

- A. Our trust should be in God, vs. 1.
- B. Apart from God & His will, there is nothing good, vs. 2.
[Jesus:] Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (JN 5:19)

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (JN 5:30)

NOTE: What is true of Jesus with regard to the Father is also true of us with regard to Jesus Christ: I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5).

- C. The Lord's delight is in His saints -- those who set themselves apart from the world by obeying His will, vs. 3
- D. On the other hand, look at the result of replacing God in our hearts & lives, & giving to something else the place that belongs only to Him, vs. 4.
 - 1. We should remind ourselves that a failure to truly trust in God IS a form of heathenism.

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (MT 6:31-33)

2. Likewise the Jews, by rejecting Christ to keep their OT system, were giving an out-dated law the place in their hearts that belongs only to God.

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:11-12)

II. A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE, vs. 5-7.

A. God's will must take precedence over all else, vs. 5-6.
"You are... my inheritance & my cup."

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, & to finish His work" (John 4:34)

B. We, like Christ, should be mindful of God day & night, 7-8

1. God's word gives us counsel. Acts 20:27

2. By it, our conscience becomes instructed & helps us to meditate on God's will, even when the written word is not before us, Psa. 119:11.

3. Taking our stand with the word of God, we can stand firm as Jesus did when tempted by Satan. We need not be moved nor shaken.

III. BOTH TEMPORAL & ETERNAL BLESSINGS RESULT FROM A PROPER TRUST IN GOD, vs. 9-11.

Joy-9a; Hope-9b; fellowship with God-10-11b; eternal life-11c

IV. AS NOTED IN THE INTRODUCTION, THIS PSALM FINDS ITS FULFILLMENT IN JESUS, WHO EXEMPLIFIED THE KIND OF TRUST IN GOD THAT EACH OF US MUST STRIVE FOR.

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (Acts 2:22-33).

And we declare to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers. 33God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' "And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' "Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will

not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins (Acts 13:32-38)

A. Jesus died so that forgiveness of sins could be preached in His name, Luke 24:46-47; Matt. 26:28. He did His part!

B. Our part in God's plan is made known in Acts 2:36-41.

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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 10, 2001