

IN HIS PRESENCE IS THE FULLNESS OF JOY

Psalm 16

The Hope of the Faithful, and the Messiah's Victory
A Michtam of David.

Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god;
Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips.

O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;
Yes, I have a good inheritance. I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;

My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16 is one of the 73 Psalms attributed to David out of the 150 Psalms. It is given a subtitle as being a "michtam" (mik-tawm) of David. It is uncertain, by Bible scholars, as to what exactly is a michtam. Most scholars lean toward it meaning "golden", which could be saying that it is highly valued as a song, sort of how we have the phrase "golden oldies", or in our era also, certain songs attain gold record status based on a certain number of sales of that song. The word michtam also is said to be possibly associated with the word "katham" (kat-hawm), which means an engraving. While michtam may be one of those two definitions, or both, or neither is purely up to the imagination.

Whatever the case may be on what is the true definition of michtam, as we have been looking at the Psalms this summer, they are indeed what could be said to be the "golden engravings" on the hearts of God's people, as they wrote them, most notably was King David, as he wrote almost half of the Psalms.

As we have been studying the Psalms then, we have *taken note ourselves* of several, most important elements to the Psalms. First, we recognize that the psalmists acknowledge God as their God, Lord, and Savior. God is not some apathetic, uninterested God who has done His creation and has now just left it all up to chance. Where we are being led, ultimately, is to want, to seek after, and to anticipate being in His presence, delighting in Him as He delights in us, which brings us into unto the fullness of joy.

Secondly, we have also seen how there are three key principles at work in the heart of the psalmists. They **know God** and want to better know Him, they **trust God** and that there is no better option other than to continue to trust Him, and they give **honor, praise, and worship** to their Lord, God, and Savior. To know God, to trust Him, and to honor, revere, and even fear Him as being the God Almighty.

With our Psalm today, David opens in prayer and meditation saying, "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." There, David is acknowledging God as His Savior in saying, "preserve me, o God". He is also acknowledging God, that is, the one true God, as His God. Then also, David is confessing God to be His Lord, similar to how we look at Him as being the King (as He is the King of kings) and then we are His servants.

As I said that we have "taken note ourselves", in our study of the Psalms, it is not just something that we write down and rehearse in our minds so that we just know it and then rattle it off if someone asks us about it, although it is most important for us to know the Word of God. It is though what God is working in us, to become us, to where the Holy Spirit is renewing our minds and changing our hearts. That is where it IS most definitely within our relationship with God, as it was with the Psalmists, and in how He is working in us to know Him, to learn to trust Him, and to recognize Him for who He is as our Lord, God, and Savior that becomes "golden engravings" on our heart. David says, "Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You." That is David speaking to God, from his personal relationship with Him, acknowledging Him as his Lord, God and Savior, and then also putting his whole trust in God. He then gives His praise to God for who He is-full of unmatched goodness. Far exceeding our goodness, as David states, and in **Psalm 18** David says, "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him." (**Psalm 18:30**) How can we not put our trust in our Lord, God, and Savior, our Creator and Sustainer who is perfect in all of His ways?

Not only is the goodness of God a part of the fruit of the Spirit but it is also "the goodness of God that leads us to repentance" (**Romans**

2:4), to where God in His goodness and mercy keeps calling us to go to Him for forgiveness of sins and to begin living in His ways, to abide in Him. For those who know God and learn to put their trust in Him, we recognize that it is up to us, through obedience, to let Him become us, that God alone, the one true God, our Creator and Sustainer, is our Lord, God, and Savior. We let Him become us, as He works in us and to recognize God Almighty as our All-Sufficient God. El Shaddai has been translated to mean "God Almighty" in the KJV and NKJV but it has been pointed out by Bible scholars that a more appropriate translation for El Shaddai is God Sufficient. The very first Psalm, **Psalm 1**, tells us the key to our ultimate fulfillment as children of God. "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." (**Psalm 1:2**)

What does that mean for us today, as children of God, for those who have believed on Christ and received Him? After all, we are told in God's Word, that we are no longer under the law but under grace. (**Romans 6:15**) As the Apostle Paul stated, "if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (**Romans 8:11**) In this new covenant that we have in Christ Jesus, our delight then is in the Word of the Lord! The Word has a two-fold meaning to us. His Word being the written Word we call our Holy Bible and also the Word that became flesh, Christ Jesus, our Lord God and Savior! We learn to love God as He first loved us. We also learn to delight in Him as He delights in us. As David says in **Psalm 18:19**, "He delivered me because He delighted in me." How was it that God delighted in David? Our answer, surprisingly enough, comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul says this, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do **for His good pleasure.**" (**Philippians 2:11-13**) God delights in us as we surrender to His will and His ways, to know Him, to trust Him, and to honor Him as our Lord, God, and Savior.

Not only does the Spirit of Christ work in "to will and to do for His good pleasure", the Apostle Paul, in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, says that God through Christ works in us His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. Paul concludes in **verse 31** saying, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." The Holy Spirit also works in us the fruit of the Spirit of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) Therefore, if the Holy Spirit is working in us Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, and the all of the fruit of the Spirit, which includes God's love, then it will also BECOME US to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to then love our neighbors as ourselves, as Jesus Himself said that those

were the great commandments of God of which all of the laws of God are based on. David says, "As for the saints who are on the earth, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight." Here, David is not only delighting Himself in the Lord but also in the fellowship of the saints, the redeemed of the Lord, the children of God. The Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 4:11-16**, "And He Himself [Christ Jesus] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

It is in Christ alone that we can know God, trust God, and then honor God as we are being brought into the unity of the faith and the fullness of Christ. Jesus made it clear that it is in Him alone that God is presently doing His work in preparing us in His eternal kingdom. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." As the Apostle John stated in his first epistle, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life". (**1 John 5:12**) It could then be said, "he who has the Son has the Way, the Truth, and the Life". That is exactly what God intends to work in us, His Way, His Truth, and His Life! We just have to be willing for the Holy Spirit to teach us, to work in us, so that it becomes us, to know God, trust God, and to honor God and to know Him as our Lord, God, and Savior.

As it has been said and proven by all of mankind, there is not one of us that can please God on our own merits. As Paul tells us in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Once again, we cannot save ourselves, or anyone else for that matter. WE cannot save, deliver, or heal anyone. BUT GOD CAN, through the work of His Son Jesus who died on a cross for our sins, taking our sins upon Himself to the grave and then conquering death by raising from the dead on the third day, unto life, and giving life eternal to all who will believe on Him and put their trust in Him. That is where the faith part comes in. God gives to each of us a measure of faith, (**Romans 12:3**) yet it truly is up to us on whether we'll walk in that faith. That is the beginning of our getting to know God, trust God, and to honor, praise and then worship

God-to let Him become us, to work in us His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. Once again, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**" Those works can be summed up as loving God with all that is in us and then loving others as ourselves. THAT is what it means to be Christ-like.

God begins by having the Holy Spirit lead us to believe on Christ Jesus, and then to receive His Spirit, to be as Jesus put it, "born-again". **John 1:12-13** says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." He then starts teaching us to trust Him and recognize Him as our Lord, God and Savior. We can begin to recognize God, as David did in **Psalms 18**, that He is our Strength, our Rock, our Fortress, our Deliverer, our Shield, our Salvation and our Stronghold. We learn from the teachings of Jesus, by His "**I AM**" statements in the gospel of John, Jesus claims, "**I AM**" "**the Bread of Life**", "**the Light of the World**", "**the Door of the sheep**", "**the Good Shepherd**", "**the Resurrection and the Life**", "**the Way, the Truth, and the Life**", and "**the True Vine**". (**John 15**)

David says for the last part of Psalm 16, "O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance. I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." First of all there is a prophesy of Christ in that, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." In fact the Apostle Paul quoted that in his preaching to Antioch in **Acts 13:35**.

The last thing I'll mention is David speaking of the Lord being the portion of His inheritance. God spoke to Abram (Abraham) something quite similar saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (**Genesis 15:1**) Likewise, the Levites, which included the priests were told by God that the Lord is their inheritance. (**Deuteronomy 10:10**) Jesus did say, "**Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.**" (**Revelation 22:12**) Yet we also know that Jesus has inherited all things (**Hebrews 1:2**) and then that all of those in Christ, who are the children of God, will be joint-heirs with Jesus,

as Paul said in **Romans 8:17**, "and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

In all that then, we will certainly be rewarded according to our obedience to His calling, as He works in us, but our perspective should always be towards our Lord, God, and Savior as we are told to be "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
(Hebrews 12:2)

In summary, there are two-takeaways for us today. First and foremost it starts with believing on and receiving Christ Jesus and to acknowledge Him as our Lord God and Savior and that we have to learn to know Him and His ways, put our trust in Him, as He is perfect in all of His ways, and to honor, praise, and worship for who He is.

Secondly, it is for us to begin to delight ourselves in the Lord as He delights in us and to also delight in God's people as He is bringing us into the unity of the faith to the fullness of Christ. Those two takeaways are the Great commandment of loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then the royal law of loving others as ourselves.

David concludes **Psalm 16** saying, "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." You know who will be at His right hand? His people—who will be His pleasure forevermore! May the golden engravings of the Word be written on our hearts, that we all long for the presence of Christ for ourselves and for the assembly of His saints for the glory of God, for it is "in His presence is the fullness of joy!"