“Christ in the Psalms: The LORD is my Portion”

**Psalm 16; Acts 2:22-32**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 2/13/22)

David, though privileged, experienced many troubles. In both respects, he was a lot like us! (Q1) This is the context of Ps. 16. This psalm talks to us about what it really means to trust in God. This psalm shows how God’s people are to live in the face of great difficulty.

The psalm begins as David cries out to God, wanting to take shelter in Him. Here is the key: to trust in God is to live with Him at the center of your thinking and your actions, day in and day out. Even though our currency has “In God We Trust” written upon it, many Americans use it without giving that motto a second thought. They trust the currency, or the government, or themselves… at least as long as things are going their way. If things go south, they feel discontent, not trust. This is idolatry, trusting in something other than God alone.

Read Ps. 16:2 again. Is David speaking to himself or to God? The answer is “Yes!” David lives with the awareness that the Lord is his Master. He realizes that to trust God is to submit to Him and serve Him as Master. And what a benevolent Master He is! He chooses us and provides for us. Every good gift comes down from the Father of Lights. (James 1:17) We have freedom to worship, three meals a day (at least!), and beautiful February sunshine. We should follow David’s example and train ourselves to focus on the big picture and not get bogged down in the minutia. When we focus on the little things that nag at us (wants, how we want to be treated, items in the news), we often get derailed. (Q2)

David doesn’t just keep his eyes on God, but also on people… the right kind of people. You see, the earth only has 2 kinds of people: the people of God, and the people not of God (Note: this group includes some who name God, but don’t follow Him as the center of their thinking and activity. It includes some who name Him, but don’t love His Word or His people.) The people of God are not perfect, but they are attached to God and they do love Him. (Q3) We often get instruction and reminders from the Word of God THROUGH God’s people. To trust in God is to delight in the company of His people and disregard the ways of the wicked. (see Ps. 1:1-2). Let us not take our habits for living from those who are apart from God.

Ps. 16:5-6 talks of our “inheritance”, belonging to God, and our “cup”, our overflowing blessings (see also Ps. 23:5). This is the cup of grace and hope and help. There is no end to our Master’s sustaining grace. There is no end to His forgiveness. There is no end to His mercy. Hallelujah!

Do you know this blessing? Do you know that He’s got your back and He’ll never let you go? Do you know what it means to trust Him in everything, even amidst suffering? Is He your Master? NOW would be the perfect time to commit or recommit your life to Him. Now would be the perfect time to repent, believe, and follow Jesus.

As the psalm continues, we see the benefits of memorization. David talks to himself using God’s Word. Someone who trusts in God is a person of the Word. He reads it, looking for commands he needs to obey. He reads it, looking for principals he needs to follow. To trust in God is to crave, to know, and to obey His Word. Was David’s confidence in what he was doing for God? NO! David’s hope was in the person of God, the God with whom he had an intimate relationship. Martyn Lloyd-Jones put it this way: “If you want to follow the Lord when you’re in trouble, set Him before you when you’re not in trouble.”

Many of us live like we have all the time in the world. But folks, there is a 100% chance of death. But death is not a defeat for the people of God! Ps. 16:10 prophetically refers to Someone who will redeem His people, and give us eternal life with the Father. In Acts 2:22-32 Peter makes clear that David is prophesying of Christ, as well as referring to himself (David). David’s hope is in the One who reigns in an everlasting kingdom. Do you have that hope? We will all die… but do you live now for a Master who has conquered death and has prepared a place for you with Him in Heaven? Ps. 16:11 encourages us to anchor our hope to Jesus, even if our circumstances don’t change, even if our relationships don’t change.

As children of the King, we belong to Christ. We live our days with His help, secured by Him for eternity. We experience His rich blessings because we are indwelled by the Holy Spirit. May the truths of this psalm inform our hearts and our thinking and our actions today and every day. Amen. (Q4)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. How are we, as Christians, privileged?
2. Read Phil. 2:1-5 and Phil. 4:6-9. What should we be focused on?
3. Read Heb. 10:24-25. Do you enjoy the company of God’s people? Do you need them? Why? Do they need you? Why?
4. Paul David Tripp says that sometimes we are “eternity amnesiacs.” How can we help each other remember that there is much more to life than the here and now?

“Trust and Obey” (John Sammis)

When we walk with the Lord

In the light of His Word,

What a glory He sheds on our way!

While we do His good will;

He abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey,

For there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus,

But to trust and obey.