

Psalms 16
Week 2, v.2-5

Ps 16:2 I said to the LORD, "Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee."

The KJV translation of this verse begins with "*O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord*".

David's prayer is coming not just from lips that know how to pray with words from his mouth, but from his inner soul he is calling upon the Lord. This marks his true relationship with God, a heart that has been changed and now belongs to Him and relies upon Him for everything. *Is your relationship with God truly personal?* God truly understands you, He knows what your deepest concerns are and what your deepest desires are. He understands your struggles and He understands your triumphs. There is no one who knows you more deeply or completely.

Are you able to cry out to Him from the innermost part of your being? Is God sitting on the throne of your heart and soul?

David goes on to state "*Thou art my Lord*". *Why is this significant?* Look at the word *my*, this speaks again to David's personal relationship with God. It is more than just recognition of God and who He is; it is bowing before God and accepting his personal need of Him.

Have you seen a child or even an adult try to accomplish something difficult by themselves? Help is offered yet declined as you watch on through their struggle and frustration. The project or exercise becomes much easier when we acknowledge our need and ask for help.

Ps 27:8 [When Thou didst say,] "Seek My face," my heart said to Thee, "Thy face, O LORD, I shall seek."

Ps 31:14 But as for me, I trust in Thee, O LORD, I say, "Thou art my God."

Ps 89:26 "He will cry to Me, 'Thou art my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Ps 91:2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

Looking further in Ps 16:2, David says, "*I have no good besides Thee*".

Good <toWB> good (as an adjective) in the widest sense; used likewise as a noun, both in the masculine and the feminine, the singular and the plural (good, a good or good thing, a good man or woman; the good, goods or good things, good men or women), also as an adverb (well):--beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, X fair (word), (be in) favour, fine, glad, good (deed, -lier, -liest, -ly, -ness, -s), graciously, joyful, kindly,

Look at the words in the above definition: anything good means anything beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, favour, fine, glad, good deeds, graciousness, joyfulness, kindness, love, pleasantness, pleasure, preciousness, prosperity, readiness, sweetness, wealth, welfare – it all comes from God.

Apart from Him there is no good. There is nothing we bring to Him that He needs yet He brings everything to us that we need. There is nothing we do apart from Him that is good yet everything we do through Him is good because of His goodness and for His glory. God is the source of anything good our life. It is a greater fact that we are allowed to serve Him than what we might offer Him in our service. That He allows us and desires us in His presence is a miracle – something we cannot grasp.

"Thou art my Lord." To avow this with the lip is little, but for the soul to say it, especially in times of trial, is a gracious evidence of spiritual health; to profess it before men is a small matter, but to declare it before Jehovah himself is of far more consequence. This sentence may also be viewed as the utterance of appropriating faith, laying hold upon the Lord by personal covenant and enjoyment; in this sense may it be our daily song in the house of our pilgrimage. The Treasury of David

Can you say, like David, "O my soul, Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee"?

Ps 16:3 As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

Those who are on the earth living for Christ have their eyes fixed on the glory of His presence in heaven. We should delight in the good efforts of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Do you appreciate the good works of another? Are you encouraged by them? Do you encourage them? As God's children we have been given the privilege of being part of His family, united, seeking the Truth together. Paul is encouraged by those who are seeking to live for Christ.

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

He 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Ps 119:63 I am a companion of all those who fear Thee, And of those who keep Thy precepts.

1 Jn 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Do you look for opportunities to encourage one another for His glory? Christ's example was to lay down His life for us to bring glory to His Father. Is fellowship important to you? How do you know? How is fellowship manifested in your life? In what ways do you encourage other believers? Do you rejoice each time you hear of another's victory to honor God?

Ps 16:4 The sorrows of those who have bartered for another [god] will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their libations of blood, Nor shall I take their names upon my lips.

We come to verse four and the gears have shifted from those who are trusting in God and the blessings He affords them to those who have chosen a false god and the absence of blessings.

Looking back at verses 1-3, we can make a list of some of the benefits of being God's children.

- His protection, the hope and trust we have in Him;
- A personal relationship with Him, a heart and soul that belongs only to Him;
- Goodness in our life because of Him;
- The privilege of being part of His family, encouraged by one another's faithfulness, finding delight in the evidence of one another's growth

Ps 16:4 The sorrows of those who have bartered for another [god] will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their libations of blood, Nor shall I take their names upon my lips.

What do we learn first in verse 4?

Those who choose another god will have multiple sorrows.

The word choose is read *to hasten after another* in the KJV.

Hasten <mahar> to be liquid or flow easily, i.e. (by implication); to hurry (in a good or a bad sense); often used (with another verb) adverbially, promptly:--be carried headlong, fearful, (cause to make, in, make) haste(-n, -ily), (be) hasty, (fetch, make ready) X quickly, rash, X shortly, (be so) X soon, make speed, X speedily, X straightway, X suddenly, swift.

If we read the definition above, it looks like the description of an easy decision or quick decision. Almost like being caught up in the crowd and carried away by the popular thinking of the multitude.

What does the Bible say about this idea? Look at the end conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount:

Mat 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

There are two ways which we can travel – the narrow gate which is small and leads to life or the wide gate which is broad and leads to destruction.

Why is the narrow gate so difficult? It's about sacrifice. It's about putting God and then others first. It's about losing self and gaining Christ. It's not about me. It's about obeying God. It's about glorifying God and His work. It's about His honor, His control, His name alone. It's about His agenda, His desires, His plans and His direction for our lives.

The broad or wide gate is easy. It's all about me. It's where the majority go to have a good time, to make a name for themselves, to prosper through things they accomplish. It's about glorifying self and honoring self. It's about self-serving, self-indulgence, self-gratification, self-fulfillment. The wide gate is about chasing my own dreams, my own agenda and my direction. I'm number one!

Nearly every town in Palestine is surrounded by walls and is entered by gates. The principal ones are wide, with double doors, closed with locks and fastened with iron bars. The "strait gates" are in retired corners, are narrow, and are only opened to those who knock. People's NT Commentary

Eph 6:4 tells us something else about those who chase after other gods – their sorrows will be multiplied.

What is idolatry? Idolatry – seeking happiness from something or someone other than God or worshipping something or someone other than God – leads to abundant sorrows.

"They that multiply gods multiply griefs to themselves; for whosoever thinks one god too little, will find two too many, and yet hundreds not enough. ...perhaps our own experience is an equally vivid exposition; for when we have given our heart to idols, sooner or later we have had to smart for it. Near the roots of our self love all our sorrows lie, and when that idol is overthrown, the sting is gone from grief. Moses broke the golden calf and ground it to powder, and cast it into the water of which he made Israel to drink, and so shall our cherished idols become bitter portions for us, unless we at once forsake them." Matthew Henry in The Treasury of David

You've heard of Anthrax in the news as a weapon of warfare. Just having it touch your skin is poisonous. Knowing this information, would you be willing to handle it? Would you let someone you love handle it? Would you hold your finger in a flame? We don't play with fire or handle lethal substances for a reason – it is dangerous! **Do you play with sin? Even just a little bit?**

We should not be 'hanging out' with those who practice sacrifices to idols or even mention the names of their gods. The purpose of these relationships should have the sole focus of sharing the Truth.

Our Lord had no selfishness; he served but one Lord, and served him only. As for those who turn aside from Jehovah, he was separate from them, bearing their reproach without the camp. Sin and the Saviour had no communion. We should be careful above measure not to connect ourselves in the remotest degree with falsehood in religion... The Treasury of David

Ex 23:13 "Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let [them] be heard from your mouth.

Josh 23:6-7 "Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, in order that you may not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make [anyone] swear [by them,] or serve them, or bow down to them.

Ps 16:5 The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; Thou dost support my lot.

Ps 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

La 3:24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

Ver. 5. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup. With what confidence and bounding joy does Jesus turn to Jehovah, whom his soul possessed and delighted in! Content beyond measure with his portion in the Lord his God, he had not a single desire with which to hunt after other gods; his cup was full, and his heart was full too; even in his sorest sorrows he still laid hold with both his hands upon his Father, crying, "My God, my God;" he had not so much as a thought of falling down to worship the prince of this world, although tempted with an "all these will I give thee." We, too, can make our boast in the Lord; he is the meat and the drink of our souls. He is our portion, supplying all our necessities, and our cup yielding royal luxuries; our cup in this life, and our inheritance in the life to come. As children of the Father who is in heaven, we inherit, by virtue of our joint heirship with Jesus, all the riches of the covenant of grace; and the portion which falls to us sets upon our table the bread of heaven and the new wine of the kingdom. Who would not be satisfied with such dainty diet? Our shallow cup of sorrow we may well drain with resignation, since the deep cup of love stands side by side with it, and will never be empty. The Treasury of David

Where do you look for your fulfillment? The Lord Jehovah is our everything. In Him, there is everything we need now and for the future. He will give us the exact portion of what is needed – not too much, not too little – to walk through each circumstance in our

lives in a way that will honor Him. Even when we experience sorrow or hardship, the love we have from God will never cease or run empty.

'Thou dost support my lot.' God will sustain us. In Him there is security. He will prevail over all adversity. If you are His child, there is no question of your eternal security in heaven.

Think of some of God's attributes. **What comes to mind?**

He is LOVE

1 Jo 4:8

He is ETERNAL

Ps 90:2

He is OMNIPOTENT (all powerful)

Mat 28:18; Is 26:4; Jer 32:27

He is ONMISCIENT (all knowing)

Ps 139:1-6

He is OMNIPRESENT (always present everywhere)

Ps 139:7

He is IMMUTABLE (never changing)

Ja 1:17

He is JUST (perfect in judgment)

De 32:4

He is GRACIOUS (displaying compassion)

Ex 34:6; Ps 116:5

He is FAITHFUL

1 Cor 10:13

He is MERCIFUL

Ex 34:7; Ps 86:5

What an amazing God we have! Look at David's words again in Psalm 16:5.

The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; Thou dost support my lot. Can you say this with confidence?

Is God your everything – for now and for the future? Do you believe in His promise to sustain you through all things? Stop for a moment and praise Him for who He is and what He has done for you.

Application

Read Psalms 16.

In the second verse, David addresses God: “Thou art my Lord;”.

This testifies to his deep, personal relationship with God. Think about the relationships you have with other people. You communicate with some people on a daily basis, sometimes even more than once a day. With other relationships you might communicate once a week, once a month or just when necessary.

What is your need for God? How often do you communicate with Him – through prayer, through reading His word, through praise, through teaching, through studying scripture?

The frequency of your communication with God says something about the closeness of your relationship with Him. Consider what action you might need to take in response to this.

Look up and read:

 Psalms 27:8; 31:14; 89:26; 91:2.

Have you ever struggled through something on your own – neglecting to ask for help? What do the above verses say about God?

David says “there is no good besides Thee”. What does he mean? Who is the source of anything “good”?

Can you say, like David, “O my soul, Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee”?

Read Ps 16:3. Do you delight in the good works of another? What opportunities do you take to serve others?

Read Gal 6:10, Titus 3:8 and 1 John 3:16. In what ways do you encourage other believers? How are you involved in fellowship? Is it important?

Psalms 16:1-3 speaks of the relationship we have with God as His children; Psalms 16:4 tells of the multiple sorrows of those who are not God's children. What is your response to this truth?

Do you look for opportunities to share Truth with others – to encourage those who are His children to remain steadfast?, to share the gospel with those who have not accepted the saving grace of Jesus? How can you address each of these things?

Do you thank God for His saving grace in your life – for opening your eyes and heart to His truth, for saving you from the penalty of sin and the power of sin? You may want to take time to do this right now.

Read Psalms 16:5.

Where do look for your fulfillment? What does this verse say?

Do you believe that in God you have everything you need to fulfill His plan for your life? Think about God's attributes. Can you claim the words in Psalm 16:5 for yourself? Do you believe in His promise to sustain you through all things?

Take some time to consider how God would have you apply the truths in His word to your life? You may want to read through your "Apply It" bookmark for specific direction.