

Psalms 16  
Week 3, v.6-8

Ps 16:6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

David is referring to the previous verse, Ps 16:5 – the full portion of his inheritance in Christ – and is giving his testimony of God's blessings and faithfulness; He is witnessing to the truth of God's love. The 'lines' are his measured portion or inheritance. David uses a term that is familiar to his readers at the time – measuring lines were used in the distribution of the land among the Israelites when their land was divided by lots. David's lot is blessed with the presence and knowledge of God.

Lines <chebel> a rope, a measuring line; by implication an inheritance  
Have fallen to me <naphal> to cast down, to be accepted, to cause, to present  
Pleasant places <na'iyim> pleasant, sweet

Re-word the first part of verse 6 using the defined terms: the lines – **my inheritance in Christ** – have fallen to me – **has been presented to me** – in pleasant places – **and is delightful.**

What is a testimony?

1. evidence given in court – evidence that a witness gives to a court of law. It details what the witness has seen.
2. proof – something that supports a fact or claim.
3. public avowal – a public profession of Christian faith or religious experience

In what ways do you see God's faithfulness in your life? What evidence do you have that He is working in you? We all have a testimony to God's work in our lives – it is ongoing. We should be able to add to this testimony each day. David is experiencing hardship at the time of this writing, yet we see him looking to God with confidence and hope. He looks to God for his portion and happiness. He strives to focus on God's blessings now and in the future. He attains all he has to God, giving God the glory and honor.

If you are in God's word, enjoying fellowship with Him, then you will have recent testimony of His working in your life. You will be able to clearly see His hand directing your choices each day. You will be able to see His faithfulness as He

blesses your desire to live for His glory. You will be able to see His love as He matures you in your trust as you walk through circumstances that are challenging.

How does the knowledge of God's faithfulness affect your outlook on things? When you think of the future and the place Jesus has secured for you in heaven for eternity, how does it change your concern for circumstances in your life today?

About six years ago, our economy took a nosedive. Almost everyone has been affected or knows of someone affected in some way – the loss of jobs, the downgrading of income, to loss of equity in investments, the rise of student loans, upside down mortgages, etc. There were reports of people becoming severely depressed, even committing suicide because of their sudden losses. Among many there was and is an inability to cope with the idea of not being in control of their future. Does your security lie in the stuff you have on earth? What is the one thing that doesn't change? How secure is your future?

Our Lord was poorer than we are, for he had not where to lay his head, and yet when he mentioned his poverty he never used a word of murmuring; discontented spirits are as unlike Jesus as the croaking raven is unlike the cooing dove... The sense of our Father's love is like honey at the end of every rod; it turns stones into bread, and water into wine, and the valley of trouble into a door of hope; The Treasury of David

Ps 16:6 goes on to say, *Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.*

A heritage is something inherited. To inherit something is to receive something when somebody dies, to become the owner of something. What happened when Jesus died on the cross?

Col 1:19-22 For it was the [Father's] good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say], whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, [engaged] in evil deeds, yet *He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

What happens when someone accepts the free gift of God offered through His Son's death?

Eph 1:11-14 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 1:18-19a [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Our heritage is described as beautiful. In Strong's Hebrew Dictionary, this comes from the word <shaphar> which literally means to glisten. Our future shines brightly! There is no question to the outcome of our future. We have the assurance that it will be bright.

What is your response to this? How does this information affect your thoughts? Your actions? Your purpose? Your disposition?

Ps 16:7 I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

Bless <barak> to kneel; by implication to bless God (as an act of adoration), and (vice-versa) man (as a benefit);

We pray for blessing – for health, for marriage, for our children and our friends. God's blessings bestowed on us are through His grace – giving us something we don't deserve. God's blessings improve our lives here on this earth.

When David writes that 'he will bless the Lord', it's not that he is benefiting God in any way – God is complete in and of Himself. Looking back at verse two in this same chapter, we learned that we bring no benefit to God, we can't improve who He is.

"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 in Him is because of His goodness and for His glory. God is the source of anything good in our life. It is a greater fact that we are allowed to serve Him than what we might offer Him in our service." (WBS, Week 2, Ps 16, v.2-5)

Blessing the Lord means that we bring Him our adoration. We praise Him and thank Him for who He is and what He has done. In order to say I will bless the Lord, we must understand who He is and what He has done for us. To adore God, to bless God, is to love Him, to worship Him, to glorify Him, to honor Him.

David has highlighted a specific blessing God has given him – His counsel.

**Ps 16:7a I will bless the Lord who has counseled me;**

Counsel <ya'ats> to advise; to counsel, to determine, devise, guide, purpose.

Perhaps you have heard the saying 'to devise a plan'. God has a purposed plan for our lives and for the world. He already has everything figured out for us. He conceived of His plan and set it into motion before we existed and it will continue after we leave this earth. His plan is set out for us in His Word. His perfect counsel is given to us in His Word and through His Holy Spirit. In a world filled with uncertainty, where almost nothing goes according to our plan, we can rest and trust in God's guidance. **Do you respond as David did to this truth? Do you have a desire to bless the Lord, to worship Him?**

**Where do you go for counsel?** We have been given the best counseling tool in the world – God's word and His Holy Spirit to interpret it.

The second part of verse 7 says, **Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.**

This is instruction <yacar> by chastisement, correction, instruction, punishment, reforming, reproof or teaching.

**Ps 17:3 Thou hast tried my heart; Thou hast visited [me] by night; Thou hast tested me and dost find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.**

**Ps 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me; Test my mind and my heart.**

**Ps 66:10 For Thou hast tried us, O God; Thou hast refined us as silver is refined.**

Ps 139:2 Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou dost understand my thought from afar.

How do we go about understanding God's will? Do you purpose to trust in your own understanding or that given to you by the Holy Spirit?

God will give us wisdom as we seek Him. He alone knows our true thoughts and affections. He will instruct us how to please Him even in the night when we think upon Him, He will bring to mind His instruction. He is faithful to show us where, by His grace, we have brought Him honor, and where we need to re-think our thoughts and/or actions.

David is certain of the Lord's counsel and instruction in his life. How does he gain this assurance? Look at Ps 16 verse 8:

I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

What does David say in this verse?

First, David is focused on God continually. Have you ever had something you could just not stop thinking about? Sometimes a tune might be going over and over in your mind or perhaps something someone said or did. In any case, these things present themselves with great frequency, almost without interruption. Here's another way to think about this. You're in a public place and amongst all the people; a fly decides you are the one it will bother. It persistently buzzes around your face as you swat at it but it continues to bother you. This is a negative application of persistence but the idea is the relentless reminder of its presence. When David says he has set the Lord continually before him, he is thinking upon God literally all the time. God's truth is always before him, affecting each thought, each action, every decision.

...so a faithful Christian man, whether he abound in wealth or be pinched with poverty, whether he be of high or low degree in this world, ought continually to have his faith and hope surely built and grounded upon Christ, and to have his heart and mind fast fixed and settled in him, and to follow him through thick and thin, through fire and water, through wars and peace, through hunger and cold, through friends and foes, through a thousand perils and dangers, through the surges and waves of envy, malice, hatred, evil speeches, railing sentences, contempt of the world, flesh, and devil, and even in death itself, be it never so bitter, cruel, and tyrannical, yet

never to lose sight and view of Christ, never to give over faith, hope, and trust in him.  
Robert Cawdray, The Treasury of David

Is 26:8-9a Indeed, [while following] the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, We have waited for Thee eagerly; Thy name, even Thy memory, is the desire of [our] souls. At night my soul longs for Thee, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks Thee diligently;

Second, David says because the Lord is at his right hand, he will not be shaken. Being at the right hand of someone implies strength. God is the strength that causes David to stay on course, to be steadfast. With God's presence and His help, we can be certain that we are safe and secure. As God's child we can trust in Him to guard us. When we stay focused on Him, desiring to please Him in all things, we will not fail.

Ps 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with Thee; Thou hast taken hold of my right hand.

Ps 121:5 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Ps 62:6-7 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory [rest]; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.

Remember, the first verse of Psalm 16 says 'for I take refuge in Thee'. God is our protection, our hope and our strength. Our trust belongs to Him alone. But, we must stay focused on Him. We can walk away from the hedge of protection He gives to us when we follow our own will instead of His. In verse 8 of this Psalm, David knows he will remain in God's strength because he has set his focus on Him *continually*.

Think back upon decisions you have made, words you have shared, thoughts you have entertained, and actions you have chosen that have not honored God. In every instance, you should be able to recognize that you were not seeking His guidance sincerely. We have a foolproof plan of protection from being caught up in sin. However, our selfish desires beckon and we look away from the Light for just a moment – that is when we fail.

How important is it to follow David's example in Psalm 16 to set God continually before us? How can you implement this behavior in your life?

In John Wesley's Notes regarding the words 'I have set', he says it means '*I have always presented him [the Lord] to my mind, as my witness and judge, as my patron and protector*'... *Christ as man did always set his father's will and glory before him.*

That it is our wisdom and duty to set the Lord always before us, and to see him continually at our right hand, wherever we are, to eye him as our chief good and highest end, our owner, ruler, and judge, our gracious benefactor, our sure guide and strict observer; and, while we do thus, we shall not be moved either from our duty or from our comfort. Blessed Paul set the Lord before him, when, though bonds and afflictions did await him, he could bravely say, None of these things move me, Matthew Henry's Commentary

**I have set the Lord always before me;** and to trust the Lord as our champion and guard is the privilege of every saint; The Treasury of David

David did not by fits and starts set the Lord before him; but he "always" set the Lord before him in his course; he had his eye upon the Lord, and so much the Hebrew word imports: I have equally set the Lord before me; that is the force of the original word, that is, I have set the Lord before me, at one time as well as another, without any irregular affections or passions, etc. In every place, in every condition, in every company, in every employment, and in every enjoyment, I have set the Lord equally before me; and this raised him, and this will raise any Christian, by degrees, to a very great height of holiness. Thomas Brooks in The Treasury of David

*If we constantly keep our eyes on Jesus we will not fall off the course He has intended for us.*

### Application

Read Psalms 16.

In verse 6, what is David speaking of when he says 'my heritage is beautiful to me'?

What is your testimony of how God has worked in your life? Is your heritage beautiful?

Think how you are different, how He has guided you, the hope you have for the future. Write down some of these things.

In what ways does your future hope affect your reaction to present circumstances?

What happens when our security and trust is placed in things or people?

Where is your security and trust placed?

How do you know?

Think of an example where this is proven.

Is there someone you can encourage in this area?

Look at Ps 16:7.

Where does David get his counsel?

Where do you get your counsel?  
God through His word?

Why is it important to get your counsel from

What does Ps16:8 say about where David is focused?

Read Is 26:8-9 and Ps 62:6-7. What does each of these sections of scripture say to you?

Have you set your focus 'continually' upon God 'in every place, in every condition, in every company, in every employment and in every enjoyment'?

What can you do to help direct your focus toward God in every situation?

Take some time to read your 'Apply It' bookmark and consider how God would have you react to Ps 16:6-8.