

## “Living in Faith, Dying With Confidence”

### Psalm 16

(Preached at Trinity, January 10, 2010)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. When is a prophecy a prophecy? Is it true that every time a prophet uttered words of prophecy he knew precisely what he was prophesying or even that he was prophesying at all? There were many times a prophet of God spoke far more than he realized.
2. This is the nature of God's Word. It was written by men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. They wrote using their own vocabulary, their own thoughts, from their own experience—yet they wrote precisely what God ordained that they would write as God's instruments of His revelation.  
**2 Peter 1:21** – “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.”
3. Thus God's prophets spoke continually of Christ, at times speaking far more than they realized. The Old Testament Scriptures are all about Jesus.  
**John 5:39** – “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”  
When Jesus met the two disciples on the road to Emmaus He opened their understanding to the Scriptures teaching about His death and resurrection.  
**Luke 24:25-27** – “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: <sup>26</sup> Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? <sup>27</sup> And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”
4. One of the messianic prophetic passages is found in **Psalm 16:10**.  
Some have tried to apply every verse of Psalm 16 to Christ but that is without warrant. Only **Verse 10** clearly points to Christ.  
David is writing about his own life, but he is writing far more than he knew—he was prophesying about the resurrection of Christ.  
Both Peter and Paul quoted from this passage referring to the resurrection of Christ
  - A. Peter speaking on the Day of Pentecost:  
**Acts 2:25-27** – “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: <sup>26</sup> Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: <sup>27</sup> Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
  - B. Paul preaching in the synagogue  
**Acts 13:34-37** – “And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. <sup>35</sup> Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. <sup>36</sup> For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: <sup>37</sup> But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”

5. Jesus went to the grave for three days, yet He did not undergo decay. David did indeed decay in the grave like all men but he meant this in a different sense. **Acts 13:36** – “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption.”
  6. While, prophetically David was speaking of the glorious resurrection of Christ, with regard to his own life he was speaking of his great confidence before God, even unto death.
  7. In the 1960’s movie *Polyanna* the town preacher was known for his fire and brimstone sermons. During one scene he thundered, “Death comes unexpectedly.” His words reflected a reality looming upon us all. Death is pursuing menace for us all – unnatural, yet all too natural. All of us will eventually go to the grave.
  8. David is saying in **Verses 9-10** that his confidence rested with God, even to the grave. This is a psalm of faith—of confidence in God. **Psalms 16:1** – “in thee do I put my trust.”
  9. The psalm opens with a simple superscription – a Michtam – we don’t know the precise meaning of this word although some believe it comes from a word that expresses something hidden. Psalm 16 is often referred to as “The Golden Psalm” – a treasure of gold hidden in the midst of the Old Testament. And it places David as the author. As David considered his confidence before God he considered the elements that led to that confidence. First, David expresses his concern for God’s righteousness – **Verses 2-4** Second, David expresses his contentment in God’s provision – **Verses 5-8** This life of faith then led to grand conclusion in **Verses 9-11** “Therefore” – David expresses his grand confidence in God’s care.
- I. David expresses his concern for God’s righteousness – **Verses 2-4**
- A. First, David expresses the reality of his own righteous life
    1. There is some confusion of translation in **Verse 2**

<sup>KJV</sup> **Psalm 16:2** – “O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness *extendeth* not to thee;”

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 16:2** – “I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

<sup>NAS</sup> **Psalm 16:2** – “I said to the LORD, “Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee.”

      - a. The KJV is stating that David’s goodness does not extend to God. In other words, our good deeds are not done for God in the sense of God having need of them. Matthew Henry – “God has no need of our services; he is not benefited by them, nor can they add any thing to his infinite perfection and blessedness. The wisest, and best, and most useful, men in the world cannot be profitable to God, Job 22:2; 35:7. God is infinitely above us, and happy without us, and whatever good we do it is all from him; so that we are indebted to him, not he to us.”
      - b. The other translations are stating that we have no good thing apart from God. All of our goodness comes from God.

2. Both are true. We strive hard to live according to righteousness and good works. It is the heart of our salvation.  
**Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
  3. God is the source of our good works. He is pleased by them but He is not increased by them.
- B. David’s heart was with the righteous – **Verse 3**
1. He calls them “the excellent ones.” He states that all of his delight is with them.
  2. Few can grasp this reality – it is at the very heart of Christianity. Our relationship with Christ is translated to our relationship with other believers. Christians are united Christ and to one another. We love Christ and we love one another.
  3. This is the essence of our church covenant. We are a body. We are one in Christ. Our love for Christians is essential to our salvation.  
**1 John 3:14** – “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.”  
**1 John 4:7-8** – “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. <sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
- C. David writes of the sad state of those who have turned from the path of righteousness – he is talking about apostate Jews.
1. They have gone after other gods
  2. They were guilty of religious pluralism – seeking to worship the one true God while embracing the gods of this world.
  3. David says their worship of God is rejected. Their offerings refused. Their sorrows will be multiplied.
- D. In these verses David is expressing his heart of concern for righteousness. He served a holy God. His life was filled with a constant pursuit of holiness. His heart was towards others pursuing these same things.  
What is your heart?
- II. David expresses his contentment in God’s provision – **Verses 5-8**
- A. For David God was his all in all
1. The portion of his inheritance, his cup which runs over
  2. All that David had was maintained by God – “Thou maintainest my lot.”  
Jeremiah Burroughs – “To the saints, Christ is all in all in the enjoyment of all. The satisfaction that their souls have is not that they have larger estates, more friends, or greater comforts than others, but that they know how to enjoy Christ in all, and can look upon it as a fruit of the covenant that God made with them in Christ.”
  3. God had maintained his lot – **Verse 6**  
In other words, the promises of God are true. God was his God and he was God’s chosen.
    - a. The place of David’s lot was pleasant.
    - b. The inheritance of David was good – “beautiful”

4. For David, what could be better than God?  
He is saying, Oh my soul, look no further.
  5. This brought praise from the heart of David – **Verse 7**  
“I will bless the LORD”
    - a. God taught this to him by His Spirit
    - b. David also knew it in his heart (reins)  
Even during dark times – “night seasons”
  6. **Verse 8** – “I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*”
    - a. God was always at the center of David’s life
    - b. God is a Rock, a sure foundation  
**Psalm 18:2** – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.”
- B. This is the heart of all of God’s people – we rest content in Christ
1. The people of this world are looking to the things of this world to bring them joy. They are looking to the things of this world as their reward.
  2. The people of God have found the true source of contentment  
This world will never provide contentment. During our darkest days there is peace in Christ.
- III. David expresses his confidence in God care – **Verses 9-11**
- A. What is the result of David’s life of faith?
1. He expressed his heart for holiness – his own life was that of goodness  
He loved the people of God.
  2. He expressed his contentment with his life as a child of God  
God was enough.
  3. “Therefore” – **Verse 9**
    - a. His heart was filled with joy – the word for “glad” means to rejoice  
David’s life resulted in great joy.
    - b. His mortal life rested in security  
Paul described this as a peace that is beyond description  
**Philippians 4:6-7** – “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
  4. We find here the heart of **Verse 1**  
**Psalm 16:1** – “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.”
- B. In **Verse 10** we find David’s ultimate hope
1. He knew he would go to the grave – this is the lot of all men.  
Death is the curse of God upon sin. All have sinned. All die.  
Death can come at any moment. We should live with expectation that today is our last day.  
Richard Baxter said, “I preach as a dying man to dying men, as if never to preach again.”
  2. But death is not the end. With death comes the judgment and all stand condemned. For the condemned there awaits the pit of despair – an eternity of corruption, an eternity of curse.

3. David did not fear death  
**Psalm 16:10** – “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
  - a. “Hell” here refers to sheol – the abode of the dead.
  - b. David had the expectation of life. God would not abandon him. He was God’s chosen.
4. David had full expectation and confidence of an eternity in the presence of God—eternal life! “Pleasures for evermore.”  
**Psalm 16:11** – “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.”

#### Conclusion:

1. Are you a Christian? Are you saved? Do you have eternal life?  
 You are dying. Death comes unexpectedly. You must live in expectation of death.  
 Are you prepared to die? Do you have eternal life?
2. David has been describing the nature of those who can have such confidence.
  - A. They have a heart for holiness. They love those who love holiness.  
 This is one of the reasons Baptist churches have had covenants. We want to be a part of a people who are committed to holiness.  
NAS **Psalm 16:3** – “As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.”
  - B. They find their full and absolute contentment in Christ.  
**Psalm 16:5** – “The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance”  
**Psalm 16:8** – “I have set the LORD always before me”
3. To these alone there is peace and assurance. God will not abandon us to the grave. He will raise us up to glory. We will dwell eternally at His right hand where there are “pleasures for evermore.”
4. Do you desire Christ? Flee to Him. He stands ready to receive you.  
 He is a goodly heritage to all who trust Him. He will sustain all who trust Him. In Him are pleasure for evermore.