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Resurrection Joy; Psalm 16
GPBC
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Introduction - One of the surprises for many students and readers of Scripture is the discovery that the OT has so much to say about Christ. We don't have to wait until Easter to preach about the resurrection, and we don't have to go to the NT to preach about the resurrection. It's right here in Psalm 16.

In fact, both Peter and Paul referred to Psalm 16 when they preached on the resurrection of Christ. Listen to Peter's words in Acts 2:25,27 "For David says concerning Him, 'For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let Your Holy One see corruption.'" Listen to Paul's words to the rulers of the synagogue in Acts 13:35 "Therefore he [David] says also in another psalm, 'You will not let Your Holy One see corruption.'" Both Peter and Paul understood David to be speaking of Christ and the resurrection. David not only believed the Messiah would come, but he knew that He would die, and He also knew that He would not stay dead but God would raise Him.

As we will discover throughout this psalm, the resurrection is precisely why David placed all of his faith and hope in the coming Christ. Just as David trusted in the coming Christ who would die and live again, so we place our faith in Jesus, who is the Christ who came, because He did live and die and is alive again forevermore.

I. The Joy of Present Faith (vv1-4)

A) Psalm 16 opens with David's statement of faith in vv1-2. David cried to the Lord for salvation and clung to the Lord for salvation.

1. "Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge"
 - a. When David cries, "Preserve me," he is crying "Save me, keep me, O God." It's a cry of salvation. That he would use a word such as "preserve" indicates that David had eternal salvation in mind. "Keep me with You forever."
 - b. When he cries, "for in You I take refuge," he's simply declaring that only God can save him. Only God can keep him. Only God can preserve him.
2. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

- a. That is nothing less than David's form of the sinner's prayer. He declares the Lord as his personal Lord while acknowledging his own unworthiness and inability.
 - b. Remember the story Jesus told of the pharisee and the tax collector praying at the temple in Luke 18 we referenced last week. David is praying the tax collector's prayer here. I have no good apart from you! I'm a sinner. That's why I take refuge in You. That's why I cry to You to preserve me. I'm lost apart from you.
 - c. That's the very essence of true faith. To see how sinful we are. How unable we are to save ourselves. And to run to Christ for salvation.
- B) Then with his faith in the Lord, David takes joy in being among the saints in this life and not among those who reject the Lord. (vv3-4)
1. David says one reason why he will not be swayed by other gods is by examining the lives of those who follow the Lord over against the lives of those who don't. It brings David much delight to know he is among those who worship and know and are saved by the true God. So there is much joy for David in present faith.
 2. Now faith in the Lord is where it all begins. Without faith in the Lord for salvation, we have no hope and no joy in the resurrection.

II. Present Faith in Future Grace (vv5-8)

A) Now we're going to see how David's faith in future grace gave his faith much strength and stability in the here and now, in the present, in this life. First, David looks to the future in vv5-6.

1. David has much assurance and confidence and security in God's salvation, and he expresses that assurance in v5 when he says "You hold my lot."
2. We know that David is looking to future grace because he says "Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance." He's looking to the future, to an inheritance. Incidentally, inheritance comes by way of someone's death. So before David glories in the resurrection of Christ, he knows the death of Christ is what secures these blessings.
3. What is this beautiful inheritance? We might be prone to answer that surely David is speaking of the glories and graces of heaven. Surely he means eternal life, no more sorrow, no more death, living in paradise, the beauties of heaven! I suggest to you David is not speaking of the secondary blessings of heaven but rather the inheritance David has in mind is not a what but a who. Two reasons.
 - a. First, David never mentions anything about the glories of heaven throughout the whole of Psalm 16, but he constantly speaks of the Lord.

b. Second, the psalms are full of poetic repetition as a form of lyrical teaching. Truth comes in couplets. A truth will be stated in one verse and then immediately restated in another way in the following verse. And that's exactly what we have here. When David says he has a beautiful inheritance, he is merely restating what he says in v5, "The Lord is my chosen portion."

c. It's the Lord. It's Christ. He is David's inheritance. He is David's portion. And David has come to know him so well, he exclaims that his inheritance is indeed, truly beautiful.

B) Now because of what David believes about future grace, he issues forth in praise and faith to God in his present life (vv7-8)

1. Do you see it my friends? "I shall not be shaken." David's immovable present faith is held firm by David's faith in future grace.

C) Dear saints of God, if you are in Christ today, you have the same future grace promised to you as was promised to David. And it is when we keep our eyes on the grace that is to come that we find strength and endurance for our faith from day to day in this life. For if we are in Christ, we too have a beautiful inheritance, for our inheritance is Christ, the Lord is our portion, and He is a lovely, beautiful inheritance. The lines for those who are in Christ have truly fallen in pleasant places. Oh, it may not seem so pleasant at times in this life, but rest assured, the Lord holds our lot, the inheritance will come, and IT IS beautiful! We simply cannot fathom here below how thrilled our souls will be when at last we see His face. The face of our Risen Lord and Savior.

1. Heaven for me, heaven for me, Jesus will be what makes it heaven for me. All the beauties and wonders my soul longs to see, but Jesus will be what makes it heaven for me.

D) Now as we come to the conclusion of Psalm 16, we learn that the joys of present faith and the joys of future grace are all founded upon, guaranteed by, the Resurrection of Christ.

III. Present and Future Joys Rooted in the Resurrection (vv9-11)

A) In vv9-10 we see David's present joys rooted in the resurrection of Christ.

1. As David sings of his salvation in the Lord, as he sings of future grace, his joy rises and his assurance of salvation deepens.

2. Joy rising - 9a

3. Assurance runs deep - David is assured of his body and his soul, even when it comes to his own death.

a. When David says “my flesh dwells secure. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol” that’s what he meant in v1 when he said “Preserve me, O God” Preserve me, all of me, body and soul, O God.”

4. David knows that while the Messiah will die, He will not remain dead. In fact, the decay of death will not even have the time or chance to set upon Him, for He will rise. And that’s exactly what gives David so much confidence in his own salvation because David’s salvation rests on and in Christ.

5. David hangs all the hopes of his own resurrection upon the resurrection of Christ. And that’s where we must hang all of our hopes as well.

6. For Jesus said in John 11:25, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

B) In v11 we see David’s future joys rooted in the resurrection of Christ.

1. What is this path of life, this fullness of joy, these pleasures forevermore? Or maybe I should ask it this way, “Who?” Who is pleasures forevermore at the right hand of the Father? Is it not Christ? Who is fullness of joy in the presence of God? Is it not Christ? Who is the path of life made known to us? Is it not Christ?

2. Christ is life and joy and pleasures forevermore, and He is guaranteed to be so, because He is risen and He sets today at Father’s right hand.

Conclusion - Rejoice the Lord is King.