

PSALM 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16).

As we “cry out to Yahweh,” turn to Him and His people as our source of direction, wisdom and calm, He gives our lives a miraculous trajectory. Approaching the finish, we:

- grieve the increasing losses and sorrow of those on other paths. Their choices are costing them their life-blood.
- become aware that Yahweh’s faithful workings in us have led to pleasant memories, even of the unpleasant circumstances.
- feel deeply united to Yahweh, counseled, splendidly changed and remarkably composed by Him.
- are assured that we have accomplished what mattered to Him and have chosen what really delivers life.
- see that the view forward, though obstructed, is stunning!

1. David states his core commitment to God in verses 2-3. What are important elements of it that you can learn from? What in David's commitment have you imitated? What remains undone?

2. What are some signs that a good thing has become too important to us? What are some other "gods" that you have run after at various times?

3. What is David saying about himself and the Lord in verse 5? What's great about choosing the Lord as your "portion and cup"? Think of this language and the words of Christ in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). What are some things we should expect in our journey with the Lord as we make this commitment?

4. Verses 6-10 describe David's experience with Yahweh that came as a result of this commitment. What stands out about it? What in it do you most desire?

5. Why is verse 11 so important for us in our walk with the Lord?