

Practice what you Proclaim

Psalm 16

"I say I believe it, now I have to prove it."

Psalm 16 Breakdown

- **Vs. 1 – Call out to the right source**
 - "God is my portion, my everpresent help..."
- **Vs. 2 – Think properly about that source – we fall short of God's glory (by far!)**
 - This helps us "tolerate" His decisions
 - This helps us meditate on His ways
 - This helps us endure hard times
 - This helps us remember our place before Him - "my goodness doesn't reach you..." (I fall short)

Exploration of an Idiom?: The English is a little hard to understand here. The literal wording in the Hebrew can have two meanings – one is "I have no goodness apart from you" or "you don't need my goodness."

- There seems to be a Hebrew expression here that is a bit unclear (since it can be rendered more than one way if taken "literally" as opposed to "figuratively.")
- Think "raining cats and dogs" - if you render that "literally," it's very confusing; if you render it figuratively, it makes sense, but you then ask "well, where did that expression come from?"
- So it's saying literally (in a humble way) "my goodness isn't able to reach to you" while it may also be saying figuratively (in a recognition way) "all my goodness comes from you, anyway." Both fit with the overall flow of both the text and the rest of Scripture. It's all how you translate the same Hebrew expression.
- **Vs. 3 – My work extends to those who are here.**
 - Saints in the earth
 - Excellent ones who God delights in (think of Psalm 15)
- **Vs. 4 – I won't be distracted by those who wander away.**
 - You hasten after another god? I'm not following you there!
- **Vs. 5-8 – I'll hold to the Lord. He's got this!**
 - God's holding things together (5)
 - God's portion is the one worth holding onto (6)
 - God's counsel is sure (my gut agrees). (7)
 - I'll bless Him for what he's done (7)
 - I'll meditate on his works (8)
 - He'll support me as I hold onto Him (8)
- **Vs. 9-10 – Joy will come in the morning.**
 - I'll rest in hope (think of Lam. 3 - "this I called to mind, and this I have hope")
 - I'm not going to the grave (or beyond) separated from you (10)

Exploration of a Prophecy: See the little bit of Messianic hinting here. This verse will be used in reference to Jesus not sitting in the grave for too long.

- Acts 2:25-31 - Peter uses it
- Acts 13:35-37 - Paul uses it
- **Vs. 11 – You'll show me the way to go and I know it will be the good way...**

Some interesting Connections

- Just as 15 and 23 have a "connection" - one being the question and the other being the fulfillment "Who will be in God's presence" and "The Lord is my shepherd" as an almost-reassurance that anything we give up will be more than refreshed, 16 and 22 have a connection.
- Remember, **Psalm 15** is "Messianic" in that it recognizes that David is dead and rotten in the grave, but someone coming won't be.
- **Psalm 22** is the answer to this – when everything looks bleak, God's vindication is on the way.
 - Look at vs. 1 – Jesus quotes this on the cross. Why?
 - How did Jesus capture the spirit of 15 in His recognition that 22 spoke of Him?
 - How is Jesus the picture of humble obedience in the face of what could seem to be utter destruction?
 - Why did Jesus quote 22:1 as one of the last things on the cross?
- **Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34** – what about Psalm 22 did Jesus want to especially claim as He was dying? What are some things said at the cross that correspond with the statements said to the suffering man in Psalm 22?
- Psalm 23 answers Psalm 15 just as 22 answers 16. This is a Jewish pattern called a "chiasm," a form of poetic alignment where you start and end at the same spots. David is representative at the start, and then a new figure (Messiah) is the perfection in the end.
- **Application: Luke 22:42.** How does this show that the righteous suffer?