

HePsalm 16:1-11
Confidence in the Resurrection

Introduction: Referenced in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. Pastor Tom Nelson (Denton Bible Church, Denton, TX) observes: If someone responds to Ps 15 with the assertion that nice guys finish last, the Bible's response is that bad guys go to hell, and Ps 16 asserts that good guys know and enjoy God.

1) God protects sufficiently—16:1-4

a) Speaks to God for protection—16:1

i) Prayer: ¹ *Keep me, O God,*

ii) Why? *for I take (seek) refuge (shelter from danger) in You.*

(1) We tend to think of a sheltered life as a negative. It may be just that, but it can also be a positive.

b) Speaks to himself of Yahweh's goodness—16:2

i) **Submission**—16:2a ² *O my soul, you have said to Yahweh, "You are my (emphatic) Lord [Adonai; the Sovereign One];*

ii) **Satisfaction**—16:2b *I have no good without You."*

(1) God alone provides sufficiently for our well-being.

c) Speaks of others—16:3-4

i) Takes pleasure in believers—16:3

(1) ³ *As for the saints who are in the earth (or The Land), they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.*

(2) This is because we share an ultimate commitment to love and obey God.

(3) If you truly delight in God, you will delight in His people.

ii) Refuses the worship of false gods—16:4

(1) ⁴ *The pains of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied;*

(a) Their own choices bring them sorrow.

(b) As Matthew Henry stated: one god is too little, two is too many, and 100's are not enough.

(2) *I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, nor will I take their names upon my lips.*

2) God satisfies graciously—16:5-6

a) God's provision is perceived as wise—16:5 ⁵ *Yahweh is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot.*

i) We sometimes say, "This is my lot in life."

- ii) An echo of Num. 18:20: *Then Yahweh said to Aaron, “You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel.*
- iii) Remember the portion of the wicked in Ps. 11:6: *Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.*
- b) **God’s provision is perceived as good**—16:6 ⁶ *The lines have fallen to me in **pleasant** [naim] places; indeed, my inheritance is **beautiful** [shepheq] to me* (not necessarily to others, especially unbelievers).
 - i) The grace of God enables us to view the circumstances and experiences of life as pleasant and beautiful because they are good for us and they come from the wise hand of the good God. (Ps. 119:68)
- c) James Hamilton reminds us: Yahweh made the world. To gain him is to gain the one who made and controls everything, inventor of every pleasure, insurer of all safety, definer of right and wrong, and rewarder of those who seek him. To lose him, even if you gained the world in exchange, would be to lose everything because his wrath and displeasure await. Anyone seeking pleasure, joy, satisfaction, and happiness should seek Yahweh.

3) God preserves faithfully—16:7-11

- Vss. 8-11 are quoted by Peter in Acts 2:25-28
- a) **Confidence in Yahweh**—16:7-8
 - i) **Written counsel:** ⁷ *I will bless* (publicly praise) *Yahweh who has* (authoritatively) *counseled me;*
 - (1) Remember King Saul went to the witch at Endor. (1 Sam. 28)
 - ii) **Instructive meditation:** *indeed, my mind* (kidneys) *instructs* (disciplines) *me in the night* (lit. nights).
 - (1) Sometimes we can see things more clearly in the dark than in the sunlight.
 - (2) Bruce Waltke reminds us: In the quietness of the night, without the distractions of the world, the voice of conscience speaks louder and clearer.
 - iii) **Cultivated focus:** ⁸ *I have set Yahweh continually before me;*
 - iv) **Confident security:** *because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken* (toppled).
 - v) Alec Motyer writes: Yahweh in front is the one I follow, the standard to which I aspire; Yahweh alongside is the strength on which I draw for life’s journey.
- b) **Response of joy**—16:9-11
 - i) **Joy:** ⁹ *Therefore* (cf. 16:8) *my heart is glad and my glory rejoices;*

ii) **Whole-person security** (D. R. Davis): *my flesh also will dwell securely.* ¹⁰ *For You will not forsake my soul to Sheol; You will not give Your Holy One (the Messiah) over to see corruption.*

(1) This verse is quoted by Paul in Acts 13:35-37.

(2) This could not be said of David, whose body decayed. This can only refer to Jesus.

(3) Allen Ross reminds us: David's preservation came through a *deliverance* from death, whereas with Jesus it came through a *resurrection* from death.

iii) **Revelation:** ¹¹ *You will make known to me the path of life;*

(1) This is not just wishful thinking. This is confidence in God's clear revelation.

iv) **Joy:** *in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

4) **Things we need to remember:**

- a) We must seek to maintain a firm conviction of the goodness of God.
- b) Allen Ross reminds us: When people come to faith in the LORD, they surrender their lives to him; but they find that he gives himself to them as their God and Savior. Thus, they receive one who delights to give them good gifts and proper guidance throughout their lives.
- c) Because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, believers can be confident that God will not permit death and the grave to interrupt the marvelous relationship and fellowship with God that they enjoy. God is greater than death.
- d) Dale Ralph Davis reminds us that in 1960, when JFK accepted Lyndon Johnson as his Vice-Presidential running mate. There were many in the Kennedy network who were not Lyndon lovers. But John Kennedy mollified one of his aides with: 'I'm forty-three years old. I'm not going to die in office. So the vice-presidency doesn't mean anything.' What a terribly presumptuous (because so arrogant) and pitiful (because so short-sighted) sort of hope that was. Far better to have confidence in a risen Savior who has already tackled that trauma (Heb. 2:14–15). **A sheltered life (cf. 16:1), then, is not a shameful but a marvelous matter—if your life is sheltered in Yahweh, your portion in life, your deliverer in death.**