

READ THE TEXT

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- ***Are you ‘prepared to die’?***
 - You hear that phrase a lot. Do you know where you wanna be buried? How you wanna be buried? When you wanna be buried? Or do you choose to be cremated?
 - Do you want a long epitaph? A Short one? Or do you want one at all?
 - Who will take your stuff when you pass away — because you can’t take it with you!
- ***Are you ‘prepared to die’?***
 - That’s the question. If you knew that you were going to die in **24 hours**—that’s all that you had left to live—what would you do?
 - How would you live?
 - Where would you go?
 - Who would you call?
 - Who would you talk with?
 - How would you prepare?
- ***The question still remains: “Are you ‘prepared to die’?”***
 - So far in human history, the death toll is 100% (except for Enoch and Elijah—but they’re exceptions!!). So bank on it, you’re gonna die. Life is short. It’ll be over soon. No more hardships, no more sorrows, no more wavering and tottering economies, no more having to shovel out \$\$ on *wii* games!
- ***Again, how can you have confidence in your life on earth in addition to waiting for (anticipating?) that day when death will come?***

Background to Psalm 16

- It could be a “*Psalm of confidence*” (cf. Pss 4, 5, 11).

THESIS- I want you to know that you *can* and **must** have confidence in God so that you bring Him the greatest honor and you receive the greatest joy in your life (and in your death!). **David models for us five necessary marks for us to have confidence in God.**

I. DAVID’S CONFIDENT PRAYER IN GOD (1-4)

See David’s Model for Prayer:

a. Seek Refuge in God (1)

i. Guard me O God!

1. God, El, the Mighty One; the All-Powerful; Omnipotent and Sovereign King. Find refuge in **God—the Almighty One!**

ii. The reason he wants God’s protection is because- I take *refuge* in you.

1. You can have absolute confidence in God in life and one way of affirming this and reminding yourself of this is praying and affirming to God that you take refuge in Him and in Him alone!

b. Submit Wholly to God (2)

- i. I said to Yahweh, “***You are my Lord/Master!***”

1. In David’s prayer, here, he affirms to Yahweh that He is, in fact, his *master and Lord*. **This is necessary for all believers!**
 - a. **Matthew 16:24-26** ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - b. **Luke 14:26-27** ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
2. ***Have you committed yourself wholly to God? Not only in lip service, but in an evidenced life of change and submission to His Word?***
 - a. There is no goodness for me *besides you!* You are all I need!
 1. *King David—the anointed OT figure of the Messiah—knew that even with all that he had, he had NO goodness without Yahweh!*
 2. ***Dig deep into your heart and mind—can YOU say this? Is God your only source of Good? Can you say: God if you left me, I would have no good at all?***
 - c. **Serve Faithfully to God (3)**
 - i. Saints who are on the earth. **Note:** these are those who “*are holy because God is holy*” (1 Pet 1:16). These are those who are “*holy and have upright character*” (Eph 5:3-5); these are those who “*contend earnestly (fight!) for the faith once for all handed down to the saints*” (Jude 1:3).
 1. The saints are **excellent ones**; majestic ones; glorious ones!
 2. Also, in God’s saints, ***ALL*** David’s delight is in *them*. Not just *some of David’s delight*, but **ALL** of David’s delight is in *them*!
 - a. **A mark of a genuine believer is “a fervent desire and yearning to be with God’s people!”**
 - b. ***John Calvin wrote: “This passage, then, teaches us that there is no sacrifice more acceptable to God than when we sincerely and heartily connect ourselves with the society of the righteous, and being knit together by the sacred bond of godliness, cultivate and maintain with them brotherly goodwill”*** (Calvin, 1:206).
 - c. ***Do you delight (e.g., love) to be with God’s people?***
 3. ***As James Boice asked his church: “This is a practical matter, for it is a way by which we can measure our relationship to the Lord. Do you love other Christians? Do you find it good and rewarding to be with them? Do you seek their company? This is a simple test. Those who love the Lord will love the company of those who also love him”*** (Boice, 132).
 - d. **Singularly Commit to God (4)**
 - i. The sorrows of those who run after other gods *will abound!* **BEWARE!**
 1. **Proverbs 13:15** but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

2. **Isaiah 48:22** ²² "There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD.
3. **Those who run after other gods—those who are living in sin and rebellion—can expect a hard life!**
- ii. The second part of v.4 consists of David expressing complete rejection of any involvement in the false worship of other gods (Wilson, 309).
- iii. But David will have nothing to do with these! Pagan gods and religions have nothing to offer and David says: *There is nothing for me in them!*
 1. Notice how David protects himself and takes every necessary precaution not to sin by “not even putting their names on his lips.”
 2. ***Are there any sins in your life that you need to take the same sort of safety and necessary precautions to guard you and keep you from those sins?***

II. DAVID’S CONFIDENT PORTION IN GOD (5-6)

a. God Alone is the portion (5)

- i. Yahweh is my portion of my inheritance and my cup. **That means that Yahweh is his full satisfaction!**
 1. **This is the idea of contentment.**
 - a. As **David Guzik** writes: *A mark of our age—especially with the Baby Boom generation and perhaps even more with those following – is discontentment, boredom, and restlessness. A generation with short attention spans, the constant need for excitement and adrenaline rushes, and 24-hour a day entertainment needs to know by experience what David knew* (Guzik).
 - ii. David wants and needs nothing more than Yahweh’s portion! Yahweh is his portion and his lot. Are **YOU** happy and content to be with Jesus?
 1. Can **you** say with **Paul: Philippians 4:11** “...I have ***learned to be content*** in whatever circumstances I am.”
 2. **1 Timothy 6:8** ⁸ If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
 3. **Hebrews 13:5** ⁵ *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have*

b. God Alone abounds with provision (6)

- i. Whatever happens, David knows that- he has a ***delightful inheritance*** for him from God!
 1. If our portion is in God recognizing that He *alone* is the portion and that He abounds with *provision*, then we can have **absolute confidence** in God in life!
- ii. This is the OT verse for **James 1:17** ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
 1. ***God abounds and we are delighted. Are you delighted and content with God’s portion he has meted out to you??***

III. DAVID’S CONFIDENT PERSPECTIVE IN GOD (7-9)

a. God will counsel me (7)

- i. I will bless Yahweh who **counsels me!** God advises, helps, aids, protects, gives direction to His servants.
 - 1. **God gives the perspective we need to live life for Him and for His glory! – In His WORD!**
- ii. Even in the night (when many are *more susceptible to temptation*), my heart/mind (Lit. “kidney”) instructs me!
 - 1. The idea of this *instruction* here has a **purposeful firmness** to it; almost to “**chasten**” as one would school one to one on hard facts (Kidner, 85).
 - 2. At all points in the day, we can receive counsel and instruction from God from His Word and from our biblically saturated mind and conscience!
- iii. So God’s perspective gives him this confidence in the Lord which ultimately stems from his experience of God’s goodness, grace, and fatherly instruction from His Word (cf. VanGemeren, 5:158).
- iv. *So I ask **YOU**—has God counseled you recently from His Word?*

b. God is before me (8a)

- i. I have placed Yahweh before me.
 - 1. Notice the Psalmist’s **Intention** (“*I have placed*”)
 - 2. Notice the Psalmist’s **Lord** (“*Yahweh*”)
 - 3. Notice the Psalmist’s **Guidance/Direction** (“*Before me*”)
 - 4. Notice the Psalmist’s **Pattern/Constancy/Habit** (“*continually*”).
- ii. *Do you choose to set your heart and mind on God **every day?***
- iii. *Do you practice putting your perspective on the unfailing and unchanging God and his perfect plans for your ultimate good?*

c. God will establish me (8b)

- i. Even at the Psalmist’s right hand—that is, his place of strength, honor and dignity.
- ii. He shall never be **moved!** (cf. Ps 15:5).
 - 1. “*There is an unshakable foundation created by a pattern of life adhered to by those who would enter God’s presence*” (Wilson, 311).

d. God gives me eternal joy (9)

- i. Therefore, because of this perspective in God true and lasting and **divine joy** can come and overflow the believer’s life!
 - 1. My heart rejoices
 - 2. My glory shouts with joy
 - 3. My flesh will dwell securely!
- ii. *Do you want to live life with this kind of joy and confidence in God? Then have the proper perspective in God!!*

IV. DAVID’S CONFIDENT PASSING IN GOD (10)

a. Confidence in the Afterlife (10)

- i. Here is another reason for his confidence in God!

- ii. You will not abandon me to the grave!
 - 1. Of course, here is a **clear Old Testament** verse speaking of the afterlife. David knew that after he died God would deliver him from the grave! The simple truth here is that at the moment David closed his eyes in death, *God would not abandon him in the grave!*
 - 2. **Indeed, 2 Timothy 1:10** Christ Jesus ... abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
- iii. Your holy one will not see *corruption* or decay.
 - 1. The idea of “*decay* [or ‘the pit’]” is a metaphor for total isolation and abandonment from God’s presence (VanGemeren, 5:158).
 - 2. David was confident in God’s abiding presence with him not only in the present life but in his passing to the next eternal life as well!
 - 3. ***This is the kind of confidence marks a believer in God! There is no need to be ‘anxious’ about the ‘next life’—for God gives absolute assurance to His own that His abiding presence will always be a reality!***

V. **DAVID’S CONFIDENT PLEASURES IN GOD (11)**

- a. **God’s salvation is revealed (11a)**
 - i. God made known the path of life.
 - 1. Remember vv.7-8 where God counsels and leads and guides his people into holiness! God leads His people into the **path of life**.
 - 2. ***Note*** that it is **GOD** who makes known the path of life. God saves His people; he makes known His path of life; He sanctifies them.
 - 3. It is as Jonah says: “**Jonah 2:9** Salvation is from the LORD.”
 - ii. ***Thank God and attribute to Him all that He has done in saving YOU!***
- b. **God’s presence is satisfying (11b)**
 - i. fullness of ***joys is your presence!***
 - 1. Note the **plural** [‘joys’] here! In God’s presence is **absolute joy!**
 - 2. ***Worshipping God with Joy in His Presence:***
 - ii. ***Do you get excited for God’s presence? Do you have a satisfied joy in being near God? Close to God?***
- c. **God’s pleasures are eternal (11c)**
 - i. Pleasures are at your ***right hand forevermore!***
 - 1. The Pleasures – delights (actually a **musical word!**)
 - 2. The Position – at God’s right hand (position of honor!)
 - 3. The Period – forevermore (in God’s presence).
 - 4. ***David Guzik writes:*** “*We are also told that heaven is to be enjoyed at the right hand of God. The right hand, even on earth, is the place of favor, and the place of honor, and the place of security. The right-hand place is always regarded as the place of dignity and nobility in all courts. God is not going to give his people any left-handed heaven, but they are to dwell at his right hand for evermore.*”

- ii. *This is how to have confidence in God now as you dwell on the pleasures of God in eternity and as they saturate and dominate your life!*

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- **How is Psalm 16:10 used in the NT?**
 - **Acts 2:27, 31—Peter’s Preaching**
 - Peter preaches and declares that David wrote that Jesus is in fact the exalted and risen Savior in *fulfillment* of Psalm 16:10.
 - **Acts 13:35—Paul’s Preaching**
 - Paul is preaching in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch (on his 1st journey) and declares that Psalm 16.10 spoke of David at that time. God would indeed watch over him and guard him. In a similar way, this found fulfillment in a greater way in the Lord Jesus Christ in His resurrection!
 - ***In Conclusion, I believe that David had himself in mind in Ps 16:10 but Peter and Paul later pointed out that from the NT perspective, the psalm not only refers to David, but it refers more fully and finally to Jesus—who suffered at the hands of His enemies, but he actually faced death but was resurrected” (Zuck, 276).***
 - The point hasn’t changed: the main point is that God didn’t abandon His *servant to the grave* but with two referents—first David writing about himself and second, Jesus Christ in his rising from the dead.
- ***Note Luke 24 and how Jesus preached about himself from the Psalms!***
 - Luke 24:18ff
- **Why is it** that today there are so many precautions people take to live in *safety*; locks, dead-bolts, chains on doors, security systems, security cameras (even **false**/fake security cameras now)?
 - Because we want to be safe; we don’t want to live in constant fear.
 - **And not that it’s wrong to take necessary steps to be safe**, let us remember that true confidence and safety and refuge in life is ***only found in God!***
- *When you make full circle at the end of the Psalm back to the first verse, you realize that the life of the believer in God is one of hardship and suffering. **Yet**, a life committed to God and founded upon an **unshakable confidence** in God will result in a secure, joyful, and blessed life in God!*