

## Our Christian Psalms ~ 16

Psalm 16 is one of the golden Psalms that relate directly and exclusively to Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Peter, in Acts 2:25-28, shows us that it was Christ who spoke prophetically through David in this Psalm. 25For David speaks concerning Him [that is, Jesus], I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance."

Peter, under Divine inspiration, quotes this section from Psalm 16 to prove that the same Jesus who the Jews crucified and God raised up, has been made "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36 - see also Acts 13:35-37). Peter builds his argument round the fact that Psalm 16 is Jesus' speech to God in prayer. Peter does not say that David is writing about Jesus; for then he would have said: He (the Messiah) saw the Lord always before His face". David, insists Peter, is "dead and buried" (Acts 2:29) but Jesus is risen! So, he explains, when David wrote "I...", he was penning the words of Jesus Christ, who was coming from the line of David to redeem and carry us through his own death and resurrection right into the Father's presence where there is fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore. That is what Psalm 16 is about. It is Christ Jesus words shared with us, as in his holy humanity He trusted himself into the promise of the Father who sent Him (v:1,8-9), extended his goodness toward those that the Father set apart (in unconditional election) as all his delight (v:3), loved and desired the LORD with unrestrained, antithetical, passion (v:4-6), and hoped with all his heart for the joy in God's presence that was set before him on the other side of the cross (v:9-11).

It has been well said that in Psalm 16 Christ is all, since in the ninth and tenth verses like the apostles on the mount of Transfiguration, "we can see no man but Jesus only" (Matthew 17:8).

We see our Saviour in the days of his flesh, pressing toward eternal life, perfecting and preparing every grace that constitutes human holiness, for us. And He is mine, and I am His! Ah, it is too marvelous! Come, look away from self - "see no man save Jesus only!"

As you read and sing and pray this Psalm, make this your view point. Say, "I see no man save Jesus" - behold the glory of Christ. Take your place, humbly and gratefully, alongside David and all those saints in whom is all His delight, and sing this song in faith's union and communion with Jesus. By faith, you too, though so very imperfect in yourself, may sing the song of the redeemed. You may have assurance that as Jesus has perfected your salvation and entered into the fullness of joy at God's right hand for you - so shall you.

Here is a song in which Jesus displays himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life through whom we come to the Father - it is our privilege to live and die with his faith filled song on our lips:

55O death, where is thy sting?  
 O grave, where is thy victory?  
 56The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.  
 57But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

Pastor Chris Connors

Psalm 16 (King James Version)

1 Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.  
 2O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;  
 3But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.  
 4Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.  
 5The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.  
 6The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.  
 7I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.  
 8I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

9Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

10For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

11Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Acts 2:36

36Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 13:35-37

35Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

36For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

37But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Acts 2:29

29Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Matthew 17:8

8And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.