

## JOYFUL CONTENTMENT: BOTH NOW AND FOREVER!!...

(Psalm 16)

...Discontentment seems to be the spirit of our day. There appears to be a great restlessness in the souls of men and women, who yearn to have it all and believe they deserve it. This should not surprise you for...

...Even Christians may struggle with discontentment, when we take our eyes off Jesus and strive to satisfy our heart with other things...things that were never designed to provide satisfaction.

...David reminds us that our deep yearnings are only satisfied in knowing and walking with the Lord. Jesus is our portion in life and deliverer in death. He is the great joy giver..."Joy to the world, the Lord is come..."

### THREE PARTS OF DAVID'S SONG OF CONTENTMENT DIRECTING US TO THE GENUINE SOURCE OF SATISFACTION.

...Drink this "water" and you will never thirst again. (John 4:14) Stop trying to quench your thirst with stuff that will never satisfy.

#### I. Our Source: God Alone! (vv.1-4)

- A. David tells that the Lord alone is his refuge, out of all possible competing choices.
  - 1. He rejects lesser things: money, his health, his strength, sex, stuff, idols...
  - 2. Rather, his relationship to the Lord is the foundation of his life, and the source of all the good in his life. David tells of his close walk with the Lord. "God, LORD, Lord"
- B. The result of his close walk with the Lord affects his relationship with others.
  - 1. On one hand, those who love the Lord will love the company of those who also love Him.
  - 2. On the other hand, those who love the Lord will find it troubling and uncomfortable to be near those who sin openly...and hate our Savior.

(This is a very practical way to measure our relationship with the Lord. Do we love fellow believers? Do you seek their company? Are you troubled by their values, shocked by godless desires, and repulsed by their blasphemies? Or, are you at ease with them? If so, it may be because you are far from Him.)

#### II. Our Present: Enjoying God and His Blessings. (vv.5-8)

...David recounts 4 blessings...

- A. God provides for our daily "bread." This is "my chosen portion and my cup." (v.5)
  - 1. This means "ones daily portion of food." By extension, it refers to other necessities.
  - 2. Jesus, "Give us today, our daily bread." It means we are looking to God for provisions.
- B. God provides us with safety. We are safe at last in this broken fallen world. "You hold my lot."  
...Our general circumstance of life is safe because the Lord defends us. Therefore, we will not be uprooted or cast out. We are, "Safe in the arms of Jesus."
- C. God provides us with the deep satisfaction, as we walk with Him through life. (v.8)  
..."The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places, indeed I have a beautiful inheritance"
  - 1. David is content with what God has given to him. This is so unusual for many are not.
  - 2. We are content because we have Him with us always, and having Him we have everything! (Hebrews 13:5-6) "Keep yourself free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you..."
- D. God counsels us with His wonderful Word. (vv.7-8) David as king needed counsel for his own life and more, he needed wisdom for his ruling decisions affected the lives of many people.  
...Daily, we too need God's wisdom as we navigate through the waters of daily living.

### III. Our Future: Enjoying God Forevermore. (vv.9-11)

...David now looks towards the future and expresses his confidence in what God will do for him in death...and beyond. God provides through Jesus life that is abundant...and without end, even death may visit.

- A. Death does not rattle us, for to us it is the door that leads to Him...and to our resurrection. (v.10)  
...Since Jesus broke the chains of death through His death, we no longer fear it.  
...David expressed great trust in the Lord to keep him from decay. In this he unwittingly spoke of Jesus. Jesus' body did not decay while in the tomb. (Acts 2:25, 30-31) (Acts 13:35ff)
- B. Then beyond our death...abundant life! (v.11) "Path of life...fullness of joy...pleasures forever."
  1. God unfolds for us as His children...the "Way of life." This is salvation.
  2. "In your presence is fullness of Joy." This blessed joyful contentment being with Him.
  3. "At His right hand," this is being even closer to the Lord..."Pleasures evermore!!!"

### SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

1. If you allow, the Lord Jesus can fill your heart so full with Himself that His JOY will flow out of you to all others. Jesus will keep you safe, no matter what stuff happens in your life. You were made to live and serve the Lord. When you do what God made you to do, you will be fulfilled. This is the JOY referred to in the words of the angels at the birth of Christ. "Joy to the world...the Lord is come..."
2. If you try to find fulfillment in life apart from the Lord, it may give you a temporary high, but it will never satisfy the deepest longings of your soul. Try as you may, it will never bring contentment. (Read Ecclesiastes) "Is that all there is????"
3. Death does not shake us, for our Lord conquered it. For the believer, death opens the door to heaven. It is the day our "race is finished." Then we will be "at home with the Lord." Therefore we can look into the future with great expectation. Smile!
4. Today consider placing your trust in the Lord Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Come to Him "Just as you are," and He will save you forever and ever. Come confessing your sin, turn and run from it to Him, and receive Him as your Lord. This is how you begin on the road of joyful contentment, a journey that will never end.