



## Psalm 16 “Preserved for Pleasures Forever”

### Intro:

Everybody is betting their life on something. Maybe it's success, relationships, money, pleasure, or control. You can tell what it is by asking one simple question: **when everything falls apart, where do you run to? That's your refuge.** Psalm 16 is about God holding you— though the good and bad, even when life ends. This Psalm answers the deepest human fear: “*Will my life be safe, meaningful, and joyful—even in death?*” David answers: **Yes — if God is my everything.** David begins the psalm with a simple but profound cry:

(v.1) “*Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.*”

### THE CRY FOR PRESERVATION

This cry is not polished or confident; it is the prayer of a man who knows his weakness (1 John 1:9). True faith begins by recognizing our weakness and need of God as our refuge. Like a drowning person reaching for a lifeguard, David turns to the Lord and reminds his heart of who God is. Though he knew God was his refuge, fear sometimes drove him to flee, as when he hid from Saul in the Cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22). Like a frightened child, we can either hide alone or run into our Father's arms, where we find protection, love, strength, and peace. David is recognizing not only that God is a refuge, but to run to Him. So when he found refuge in the LORD, he said:

### WHO GOD IS TO DAVID (v.2-7)

(v.2-7) “*I say to the Lord (YAHWEH), ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’ As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.*”

#### 1. God is his Lord and Treasure (v.2)

David does not argue with God—he worships Him. “You're my Lord.” That means God is not just an advisor to David—He rules over him. You don't argue with a GPS and still expect to arrive. You either follow it or get lost. Then David says, “*I have no good apart from You.*” That's wild! He's saying, Even good things aren't good if God isn't in them.

#### 2. God is who shapes his Friendships (v.3)

“*The saints...are the excellent ones*” [(*hāsîd*) – Strong's H2623- “*the faithful or pious one*”]

David delights in those who treasure God—the ‘saints in the land,’ his people, his companions. We too find joy in the company of those who love and live by God's Word, because God is our Lord. Ask yourself: Who do you truly delight in—those who treasure God's Word, or those who do not?

#### 3. God is who displaces all false gods (v.4)

Idols were carved by human hands—pieces of wood shaped with care until they became objects of devotion. Today, our idols are rarely carved from wood, but they are still formed in the heart, often out of our own desires. **What in your life claims your love and attention more than God Himself?** Social media? Career success? Relationships? For King Saul, it was pride and jealousy; for Judas and the rich young ruler, money. Most modern idols aren't new—they are old idols, carved with new tools.

#### 4. God is his Chosen Portion and Inheritance (v.5-6)

In the book of Joshua, the land of Canaan was distributed by lot among the tribes, **but the Levites received no portion—God Himself was their inheritance.** We often measure life by the lot that others have: their success, possessions, or relationships. “But David reminds us in verse 5: ‘The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup.’ **Our true inheritance is not things, but the Lord Himself**—the Owner of all. Our soul finds rest and security when we trust in this truth.

**5. God is his Trusted Counselor (v.7)**

David blesses the Lord who gives him counsel—the One who speaks, warns, and guides. Ignoring His Word doesn't make life safer, just like ignoring warning signs doesn't make cliffs disappear. But when we obey God, our hearts are instructed. Even in the night we experience His refuge and sovereign care. Verse 7 is the positive answer to the prayer of verse 1: God preserves us, our love, trust, and reliance on Him remain steadfast.

**(V.8)** *"I have set the Lord always before me; because **he is at my right hand**, I shall not be shaken."*

**FEAR TURNS INTO CONFIDENCE**

In verse 8, The "right hand" symbolizes strength, protection, and defense. Picture a soldier in battle: the shield in his left hand protects his body, while his right hand holds the sword—the most exposed and vulnerable place. To have the Lord at our right hand means that God Himself stands where we are least protected, guarding and strengthening us so that we will not be shaken. When the Lord stands at our right hand, fear turns into confidence. David begins the psalm asking for preservation, but he ends unshaken, secure in God's sustaining presence. As Jesus teaches in Luke 12:4–5, true courage does not come from fearing human threats, but from revering the One who has authority over life and eternity.

**(V.9–11)** *"Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For **you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**"*

**JOY THAT DEFEATS DEATH**

Then joy bursts forth: *"My heart is glad, and my body rests secure,"* because the thing David feared most, death, no longer has the final word. *"You will not abandon my soul."* And the promise that follows is astonishing: *"In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* Not merely relief or survival, but eternal joy. This hope is fulfilled in Jesus: He died, rose again, and broke death from the inside out. So if you belong to Him, Psalm 16 belongs to you. **If God is your refuge, your Lord, your treasure, and your counselor, death does not win.** God holds us now, and He Himself will be our joy forevermore.

**Conclusion and Main Idea:**

This psalm shows that God does not require us to begin strong. We come to Him as we are—sinners, needy, messy, unsure. The Word of God encourages us with **fear and hope**: warnings of death and hell call us to flee from sin, and the promise of eternal life calls us to pursue righteousness (Romans 8:13; Matthew 5:29; 1 John 2:16). But **the gospel makes it uniquely Christian**. Jesus bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24), so we might die to sin and live to righteousness. As we fix our eyes on Christ, our anxieties give way to joy, fear turns to confidence, and death loses its sting. The promise is not merely comfort—it is **unshakable, blood-bought joy in God's presence forever**, a joy that remains even when everything else shakes. **"God will bring you—body and soul—through life and death into full and everlasting pleasure, if God is your refuge, your Lord, your treasure, and your counselor". - John Piper**

**Memory Verse:**

*" You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

**Psalm 16:11 ESV**

