

JCI #154 Psalm 16 “Our Ten Delights in God” November 2014

As Thanksgiving once again draws near, we have so much to be thankful for. Let me encourage you to make a list of at least 100 things to give thanks to God for. This can be a daily endeavor as you meditate on the goodness of God to you over all the years. Many of the things for which we are thankful are temporal in nature. This does not diminish the reality of the blessing or our gratitude. But we should also focus on the eternal blessings that no circumstance or struggle can change or alter in the least. Of all the blessings God has given to us, He Himself is the supreme and ultimate cause for thanksgiving. It is not just that God gives us all good “things”, but that He gives us Himself in all His fullness, forever! Psalm 16 reminds us of this. Let’s look at David’s 10 Delights in God.

Psalm 16 (NASB)

Delighting in God my Lord (#1)

1 Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You.

2 I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;

You notice that the first “LORD” is all upper case, signifying that it translated God’s personal, covenant name, “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”, the “I AM.” This is followed by “Lord”, the last three letters of which are lower case, signifying that it translates the title “Adonai” meaning Master, Owner. O how we delight in having the Faithful, Sovereign, covenant keeping I AM as our own personal Master/Owner. The One who is ultimately trustworthy and absolutely sovereign has taken us to be His bondservants, to provide, defend and direct us in every way. What a delight we have in being His servants.

Delighting in God my Goodness (#2)

I have no good besides You."

3 As for the saints who are in the earth, They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who have bartered for another god will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

God alone is the source of our goodness, righteousness, and holiness. We are corrupt and sinful, and our natural bent is to make false gods in our own image. But the Psalmist delights in the reality that though no good apart from God is to be found, yet God Himself is our goodness in all its beauty and fullness. As Paul similarly rejoiced in 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."*

Delighting in God my Inheritance (#3)

5 The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot.

6 The (boundary) lines have fallen (by lot) to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage (inheritance) is beautiful to me.

Ancient Israel longed for their inheritance in the land of promise while they struggled for 400 years in Egypt and 40 years of disobedience in the desert. Under Joshua the land was conquered and the land assigned to the tribes by “lot.” (Hence, we see signs, “lot for sale”.) Israel would lose their “lot” by disobedience again and again, during the days of the Judges, as well as the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Roman caused exiles. But as David surveyed his God he saw in Him the glory of an everlasting, beautiful, and pleasant inheritance indeed. As God said of the tribe of Levi, “I am their inheritance.” So David saw the spiritual reality for every believer. All the things of earth will one day burn and be lost to man. But our delightful treasure in God will only grow in splendor before our eyes as we draw nearer His presence.

Delighting in God my Counsellor (#4)

7 I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my heart instructs me in the night.

What a delight to have the “Wonderful Counsellor” with day and night. As His word dwells in us richly, we discover day after day the wisdom we need to make life’s decisions in view of eternity. He is not just our Master; He is our Advisor, Counsellor, Confronter and Comforter, to lead us into His will and way in every season of life.

Delighting in God my Captain

8 I have set the LORD continually before me;

To “set before me” the Lord is to take my place behind Him. He is my Captain in every battle I must face. We are not leading the way, our God is. We are not fighting these battles alone, the Lord fights for us and with us. It is our part to continually line up behind Him, going His way, following His marching orders. This submission to our Conquering Captain is “continual.” Never is there to be a time we are not submitting and following our God.

Delighting in God my Confidence

Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Not only is God our Captain before us but He is also our Confidence beside us, at our right hand. The right hand was commonly the hand that holds the weapon. (Even though you may, like me, be left handed.☺) So the idea is that God is my Captain before me and my Confidence at my right hand, so that I may be confident in every sword thrust in the midst of the heaviest fighting we must face. We will not be “shaken” with fear or anxiety. God is our Confidence, and we delight in His Unceasing Presence.

Delighting in God my Security

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

Even if death comes, we can lay our bodies (flesh) down in the secure knowledge that our soul will be with Christ and our bodies will be raised at His return. Death holds no fear or sting. To die is gain. To depart is to be with Christ. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. When the time comes to say, our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest secure. Oh what a delight we have God, in life and in death.

Delighting in God my Defender

10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Of course we hear in this verse the prophecy of Christ fulfilled in His resurrection, as Peter proclaimed in Acts 2:24-32. But the reality of resurrection applies to us as well, since the Savior declared, “Because I live, you shall live also!” Our souls are not abandoned to the grave, but God our Defender defeated death, Hades and the grave and brings us safely home. He has the keys to death and Hades, and has unlocked death forever for His own.

Delighting in God my Guide

11 You will make known to me the path of life;

Our destiny is not the grave. God leads us all the days of our lives and then, ultimately and finally, leads us into the path of life everlasting in His own glorious presence. We are not left in the darkness of death or the despair of the grave. We are lead “through the valley” in the “path of life.” Our God is our Guide, forever. Psalm 48:14 “For this God is our God forever and ever, He will be our Guide even unto death.”

Delighting in God my Joy

In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

The path leads to the Presence. Even though His invisible Presence in this life is ever with us as our Lord, Goodness, Inheritance, Counsellor, Captain, Confidence, Security, Defender and Guide, it all consummates when we see Him and are immersed forever in the fullness of joy and unending pleasure that is found in His Presence. God is our delight, and the fullness of this delight is to be known only in His Presence. This is where it all leads. This is where it is all complete. This is the delight of the disciple: “To see him as He is!” 1 John 3:1-2

Self-Check

- 1) Is God the delight of my life?
- 2) Do I treasure God above all “things?”
- 3) Is gratitude my continual response because God is my treasure?
- 4)

For Further Study

Memorize Psalm 16 in whatever version you prefer. Quote it every day throughout the month of November. Do a word study on inheritance including Ezek 44:28 Acts 20:32 Eph 1:14 Eph 1:18 Col 1:12 Heb 9:15 1 Peter 1:4

“Lord, You are my delight and treasured joy. In the midst of all the earthly blessings You give, let me never lose sight of the glory of You as the not just the source but in reality the substance of all blessing and delight. My heart so easily makes idols of those things that can never satisfy the soul. Forgive me for a wayward heart. Show me Your glory, even as Moses prayed. May You be my treasure, delight and joy now and evermore. I pray in the Name of my Inheritance, Jesus Christ, my Lord forever, AMEN.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4

Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY