

Faith In God Alone

Psalms 16 (ESV) - A Miktam of David.

Refuge:

1-2 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

- Who do we turn to? Why do we turn to Him?
- Today we're considering two truths: (1) God wants us to trust Him. (2) God has added you to His body. Both our Lord and His body play different roles in our lives. We begin with our trusting in God, brethren. We find there is no good apart from God. The body only holds value because of the Lord. Without God, we are simply people who fall short. Indeed, apart from God, we have no good. Remember [John 2:24-25](#)? "But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because He knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man."
- This also includes **you**. If your neighbor doesn't have good apart from God, it implies you don't offer the good we truly need. Today you want to ensure we don't put our faith in people over God? Amen! Start with yourself - don't trust yourself over God. You're not that good. Jesus said, "No one is good except God alone." People of God should be humble - not thinking too highly of themselves. So, not only should you refrain from leaning too heavily on others or their value of you, but we should also not lean too heavily on ourselves.

Contrast of Saints & Idolaters:

3-4 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.

- [1 Corinthians 12:12-26](#) reminds us how we all have different roles by the grace of God. Everyone is essential, but keep the analogy - we're one body. If you suffer, I suffer. If you rejoice, I rejoice. We tend to take the body for granted. While Jesus knows you specifically by name, please begin to take note of the collective narrative throughout the Bible. God established Israel. Christ came to save a people. He established a body. The bride is presented to God, etc. You have a group of people here who are on the same page as you. Take advantage of that. The church is a blessing, not a burden.
- David has a lot of Psalms about his enemies. Have you noticed that? I'm not criticizing him. He was mistreated several times but drew closer to God. Of course, as we discussed last week, ensure you're not throwing a pity party in a cave. Jesus didn't bust out of His cave on the third day, so you can remain in one. Such people aren't necessarily running *toward* God as much as they're running *from* their brethren. Be honest with yourself.
- Yes, it's true that throughout my life, I have been hurt by those in the body. It's equally true that outside my blood family, those who have encouraged and offered joy and hope have been those in the body. I don't accept the good without the bad. You make up my life. If I pass tomorrow, North Collin will be mentioned in my short obituary.
- Saints also serve as wonderful examples:
 - Paul made that abundantly clear in several passages. Yes, he had been hurt by others and was glad Christ stood by him ([2 Timothy 4:9-18](#)). However, he taught that Christians could also serve as wonderful examples ([Philippians 3:17](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:7](#); [1 Timothy 1:16](#); [1 Timothy](#)

4:12). Ultimately, we're molding ourselves to the image of Christ, so others see Him. Brethren, your shepherds are here to help and serve as an example. That's what Peter instructed. Ministers like myself are to serve as examples. That's what Paul wrote to Timothy. Paul also taught all Christians to serve as examples.

The Lord, My Inheritance:

5-6 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.

- Not only do we trust in God, but we are accepting and thankful for our lots in life.
- Israel was divided among the tribes. Everyone had their own space, and David communicated his thankfulness to God. You may feel like that was easy for David to say, but remember, he had his own load to carry. Whether it was because of the sins of others or his own, he appreciated God's provisions.
- May I gently remind us that if the Lord is our chosen portion, it implies that we care more about His acceptance than others? While some people run away from their brethren, some run too quickly to them. They find their value in others.
 - **1 Corinthians 3:21-4:4** "So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me."

The Lord, My Comfort:

7-8 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

- Do we really mean it when we say, "I trust in the Lord alone?" If it's true, then you stay in His word. You find peace and guidance because of His word. Your heart is moved and moves you because of Him. You are dependable and predictable because God has made you so.
- **Psalms 62:5-8** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us.
 - Sometimes we've been hurt by others or are suffering.
- Closeness to the Lord is not about gaining Bible facts. It's about becoming more spiritual (**1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4**). These people followed men because they weren't spiritual. They were divisive because they weren't spiritual. Their local fellowship was messy because it had too many who weren't spiritual. Not because they were amateur bible students.

Joy In The Lord:

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.

- Yes, such people are full of joy and hope. What a wonderful person to have around you. Do you know what brings us the most joy? Our salvation is through Jesus.
- Do these passages sound familiar? **Acts 2:22-39**