

Deeper Life Bible Church Liverpool

Sunday Worship Service, 05-04-09

Message: The Portion of the Righteous

Text: Ps.16:5-7; Rom 2:10

Preamble:

I. David speaks of himself as a member of Christ, and so he speaks the language of all good Christians, professing his confidence in God (Ps 16:1), his consent to him (Ps 16:2), his affection to the people of God (Ps 16:3), his adherence to the true worship of God (Ps 16:4), and his entire complacency and satisfaction in God and the interest he had in him, Ps 16:5-7.

II. He speaks of himself as a type of Christ, and so he speaks the language of Christ himself, to whom all the rest of the psalm is expressly and at large applied, Ac 2:25, &c. David speaks concerning him (not concerning himself),

1. Of the special presence of God with the Redeemer in his services and sufferings, Ps 16:8.

2. Of the prospect which the Redeemer had of his own resurrection and the glory that should follow, which carried him cheerfully through his undertaking, Ps 16:9-11.

Introduction:

This Psalm is referred to as Michtam of David. It is translated as Michtan ledavid (Chaldean)-meaning straight sculptor and by the Septuagint as "The inscription on pillar to David". This inscription on pillar may have been done to keep it in remembrance.

It is called a golden Psalm. Why? On account of its excellence! It is a psalm worthy to be written in golden letters. It is ascribed to David and quoted by Peter (Acts 2:35-31) and Paul (Acts 13:35). Cf Ps 60.

Ps. 16:5-7 (Read); Deut. 32:9; Ex. 19:5; Jer.10:16;

David affirms here **"The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot"**

And the Bible says: **"The Lord's portion is his people"** Deut. 32:9- What an astonishing saying. As holy souls take GOD for their portion, so GOD takes them for his portion!

From V 5-7, Observe

1. The definite Decision of the righteous (v5)
2. The Deliberate Choice of the righteous (v6)
3. The Determined conviction of the righteous (v7)

(I) THE EXCELLENCY OF GOD'S PORTION

Ps16:4-5; Rom.2:3; Ps 16:4; Ex 23:13; Jos 23:7,16; Ps 106:37-38; Ho 2:16-17

We are constantly confronted with diverse decisions in life, which invariably brings us to a point where we are compelled to make a choice. David chose the path of righteousness when faced with a compelling alternative (v4). **Alternative emphasizes choice between only two possibilities or courses of action:**

We can draw some invaluable lessons from David's experience:

by his choice, he... (a) I will seek no earthly god (v4) (b) I desire to do the will of God.

What then does a believer who has made a deliberate decision to follow Christ receives from God?

Read Ps.2:10 "**But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile**"

II THE EXEMPLIFYING BLESSINGS OF THE LORD'S PORTION

Ps. 16:5-6 Isa 3:10-11; Rom.2:10; Eccl.8:12

- The Lord is the portion of the believer's inheritance.
- Whom does God refer to as a righteous man?

There is threefold righteousness:

1. There is a LEGAL righteousness, and so Adam, in this sense, was said to be righteous when he wore the robe of *innocence*. Adam's heart agreed with the law of God exactly-as a well-made dial goes exactly with the sun; but this righteousness has been forfeited and lost.

2. There is a MORAL righteousness, and thus he is said to be righteous who is adorned with the moral virtues, who is prudent and just and temperate, who is decked with the *jewel of morality*.

3. There is an EVANGELICAL righteousness and this is what is meant here in this verse. This evangelical righteousness is twofold.

- There is a righteousness of **imputation**, and that is when Christ's righteousness is made over to us. Beloved, this righteousness is as truly ours to justify us-as it is Christ's to bestow upon us.
- There is a righteousness of **implantation**, which is nothing else but the infusing of the *seed and habit* of grace into the heart, a planting of holiness in a man and making him partaker of the divine nature. This is to be righteous in the sight of God, a righteousness of *imputation* and a righteousness of *implantation*

Read v5 "the Lord is the portion of the righteous".

What are these honours?

-Ps16:5 Isa 3:10-11 "**But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile**"

- **Because he who is righteous has his greatest evils removed, his sin is pardoned, and then it must be well with him.** Sin is the thorn in a man's conscience. When the thorn is plucked out by forgiveness and remission, then it is well with that man.
- Forgiveness in Scripture is called a *lifting off of sin*. Job 7:21: "Lord, why do you lift not off my sin?"
- When the burden of sin is ready to sink the man, God lifts off this burden from the conscience and lays it on Christ's shoulder-and He carries it now.
- Pardon of sin is a *multiplying* mercy-it brings a great many mercies along with it. Whom God pardons, He *adopts*; whom God pardons, He invests with *grace* and *glory*! This is a multiplying mercy-and it is enough to make a sick man well.
- Isaiah 33:24: "The inhabitants shall not say, 'I am sick'; the people shall be forgiven their iniquity." The sense of *pardon* takes away the sense of *pain*.
- It must be well with the righteous for sin-his greatest evil, is removed.
- **(b) However things go, it is well with the righteous because God is his portion.**
- Psalm 16:5-6: "The Lord is the portion of my inheritance. The lines have fallen unto me in pleasant places."
- All good things are comprehensively enclosed in God and all God's resources are designed for man's good- for we are created for His pleasure.
 - **HIS POWER -IS TO HELP**
 - **HIS WISDOM- TO TEACH**
 - **HIS MERCY- TO SAVE**
 - **God is the righteous man's portion:**
 - **God is a *rich* portion, for He has unsearchable riches.**
 - **God is a *safe* and *sure* portion, for His name is a strong tower.**
 - **He is a portion that can never be spent-for He is infiniteness.**
 - **He is a portion that can never be *lost*-for He is eternity.**
 - **"You are my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26),**
 - **and surely it is well with the righteous man,**

- **If God is our portion, we are happy. Psalm 144:15: "Happy is the people whose God is the Lord."**
- **Here is good news from heaven: "Say unto the righteous it shall be well with him."**
- (c) "If it is truly well with the righteous, why do **we often see it is worse with them in this world?**"
- He is deprived of his comfort many times;
- he is made the very reproach of the world oftentimes. How then, is it well with the righteous?"
- yet it is well with the righteous who has made the Lord the portion of his inheritance.
- **The troubles the righteous man meets with turn to his good, and so it is well with him. see** Jeremiah 24:5: "Whom I have sent out of this place unto the land of the Chaldeans, *for their good.*" God's own Israel was transported into Babylon among their enemies-but it is for their good, said the Lord.
- The troubles of the righteous are a means to purge out their sin.
- Jerome (early church fathers) said that the world looks on affliction as a punishment-but God makes a *medicine* to heal the sore. Then it is well with the righteous.
- The *rod of God* upon a saint-is but only *God's pencil* whereby He draws His image more livelily on the soul.
- **(ii)In the midst of all the trouble that befalls the righteous, still it is well with them in regard to those inward hearts reviving, which God gives them.**
- We see a godly man's *misery*-but we do not see his *comfort*.
- We see his *prison* gates-but we do not hear the *music* which is within his conscience.
- God sweetens His people in outward trouble-with inward peace.
- He is "the Father of compassion and the *God of all comfort*, who comforts us in all our troubles." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- God gives him that *inward comfort* that revives and sweetens his *outward pain*.
- Just as when a man's head aches-yet his heart in peace.
- **In the time of trouble and calamity-yet still it is well with the righteous because God covers His people in time of trouble.**
- He hides them in the storms. God cares to hide *His jewels*-and will not let them be carried away; thus He makes good the Scripture, Psalm 91:4, 10, 11:
- When a flood was coming upon the world, God provided an *ark* to hide Noah.
- When Israel was carried and transported into Babylon, God hid Jeremiah and gave him his life for a prey, Jeremiah 39:11.

III. THE EXALTING EXPRESSION OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Ps. 16:7; Heb 12:2

David experienced the Excellency of God's portion and the Exemplifying blessings of the Lord's portion in an unprecedented way.

In v 7 he showed us why he made that deliberate choice of the Lord's inheritance... "I will bless the Lord"!

When you are confronted with temptations, trials and perils that threatens your soul what will you do?

You will find some scriptural model to guide you in James 1:1-12

- V7 Celebrate the reason behind your trial ... "I will bless the Lord" Jas1:2
- Call upon God's resources ... "who hath given me wisdom" Jas1:5
 - **Job 12:13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding**
 - **Job 28:20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?**
 - **Job 28:23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof**
 - **Pr 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**
 - **Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**
- Contemplate the reward and think forward- Jas 1:12, Heb12:2
 - **Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**
 - **Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God**