

**Our troubles make us decide what we really value in life**

• The big questions

1. We value God himself above everything else.

2. We value God's people.

3. We place trust in no other god

4. We are to rejoice in our God-appointed destiny

Psalms 15-19 are giving some answers to the troubles and conflicts that David is experiencing. The first answer is finding fellowship with God <sup>1</sup>. The next is finding security in God <sup>2</sup>.

Something happened to David that made him cry out to God for help <sup>1</sup>. We all have to learn to do this. God is David's refuge in any kind of trouble.

<sup>1</sup>Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Our troubles make us decide what we really value in life. What do you value more than anything else? We do not think much about life while we are enjoying ourselves but where we lose our health, or find trouble in the family, or are struggling financially — then we begin to ask the big questions and decide what we really value.

1. **We value God himself above everything else.**

<sup>2</sup>I have said to Yahweh 'You are my sovereign King; I have nothing good apart from you'.

We value God himself! His kingdom [LORD is Yahweh; Lord means 'sovereign lord']. We value God's fellowship; there is nothing we enjoy without him.

2. **We value God's people.**

<sup>3</sup>As for the saints who are in the land, they are surely the true heroes! They are the best of all in whom I take delight.

We are in a world full of people. Who do we really value? David knows the answer: the people of God! They are the excellent ones; they are the heroes! They are people who stand up to sin. They resist sin and Satan. They are *spiritually* great people. They are the people who show love. They are the people who enjoy the worship of God. They are the people we want to be with.

3. **We place trust in no other god.** We cannot find this kind of joy in any other God. There are many who know nothing of this joy that David finds in God. But their lives are impoverished.

<sup>4a</sup>The sorrows of the people will be multiplied! They are running in the wrong direction!

The people of the world are always running around looking for pleasure, looking for security, but they cannot find anything in which to base their lives. Only the God of the Bible is the answer.

<sup>4b</sup>But I will not pour out their sacrifices of blood Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

David refuses to be involved in the pagan rituals of those around him in other nations who worship other gods. He will not pray to them.

4. **We are to rejoice in our God-appointed destiny.** David says:

<sup>5</sup>Yahweh is the best part of my inheritance; and the best part of the cup of blessing I will drink. You are holding my destined portion firmly secure.

<sup>6</sup>The measuring-lines for my place have fallen for me in pleasant places. Surely the inheritance is very pleasant for me.

It is wonderful to have an inheritance, but the best part of it is God himself.

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 15

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup> verse 1

In ancient Israel each family (in Joshua's days) had a plot of land. It was measured out for him with measuring ropes. The believer has something spiritual. God has measured out for him his place in the kingdom of God.

5. We rejoice in God's guidance, day-by-day or even night-by-night.

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

It is obvious from many of the psalms that David was often to be found praying to God in the middle of the night. God was determined to do what he could to keep this presence of God.

6. We find safety even when faced with the threat of death

6. **We find safety even when faced with the threat of death.** Evidently David had just been in some crisis where he came close to dying. It leads him to think of the safety that would be his even if he had died.

*<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and inner glory is rejoicing;  
my flesh also dwells secure.  
<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.  
<sup>11</sup>You make known to me the path of life;  
fulness of joys comes with your presence;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

David will rejoice because if he dies even his body will rest secure, ready for final resurrection <sup>1</sup>. His body will not be abandoned <sup>2</sup>. His body will see no decay. Since he is God's 'Holy One' God will preserve him even in death.

• Joys in God's presence beyond the grave

His joys will be continued <sup>1</sup>. God can only be faithful to people who are alive not dead, so his people must still be alive and their joys must continue, even after their death. This is the way Old Testament saints reckoned the matter. It made David know there would be joys in God's presence, and eternal pleasures - beyond the grave.

**Beyond David – This psalm is true of Christ first – and then of all who are in Him**

Of course, David is going beyond himself! He was talking as if He was the Messiah! Certainly this psalm has to become true in Jesus - then it can become true in David and all of the people of God. David's tomb was eventually to be found in Jerusalem, but Jesus is alive from the dead. As in many of these psalms, David is only a shadow of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter made precisely this point on the day of Pentecost. 'David ... both died and was buried ... He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ...' <sup>1</sup>. But we are in Christ. Psalm 16 is true of Christ first; but then it will be true of all who are in Christ.

<sup>1</sup> 9  
<sup>2</sup> 10

<sup>1</sup> 11

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:25-31



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