

Series: Psalms
Title: Faith of Christ
Text: Ps 16: 1-11
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Psalm 16: 8: I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9: Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10: For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

In Psalm 16, it is Christ speaking through David. Turn to Acts 2. We will see that the Holy Spirit moved the apostle Peter to quote Psalm 16, declaring it is all about Christ.

Acts 2: 25: For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption...29: Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30: Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31: He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32: This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Turn to Acts 13. We will see the Holy Spirit moved the apostle Paul to also quote this 16th Psalm, applying it to Christ.

Acts 13: 35: Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36: For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. 38: Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Proposition: Psalm 16 is Christ speaking through David. Here we see Christ's faith in God, as he viewed his approaching sufferings on the cross, his victory over death and the grave, and his exaltation to the right hand of God.

I. CHRIST'S PRAYER OF FAITH—V1: Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

Preserve Me, O God—guard me, be as a bodyguard to me. God is called in Job 7: 20—"the preserver of men." And Christ Jesus, as God the Son, is the Preserver of men.

Psalm 145: 20: The LORD preserveth all them that love him:

But when God the Son took human flesh, he took upon him the form of a servant. As the servant of God, as Man, as the Mediator and Representative of his people, Christ Jesus needed to be kept from the power of evil, even as we do—so he prayed, "Preserve me, O God. For in thee do I put my trust." Christ had God's promise—his word—that God would keep him.

Isaiah 49: 8: Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to

cause to inherit the desolate heritages; 9: That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

Application: Brethren, just as Christ had God's word, we have God's word!

Psalm 9:10: And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

1 Peter 2:6: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

No matter who you are, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall not be confounded or ashamed for doing so. The LORD has never forsaken one who put their trust in him. Why? Because God is faithful to the believer who puts all his trust in God!

Christ used the argument that God will not refuse—FOR IN THEE do I put MY TRUST. To believe is to put all your trust in God—not in your works, not in any other thing or person. God can be trusted above our nearest and dearest loved ones.

Psalm 27:10: When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Also, because this prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ to God for his people, as well as for himself, because all the elect of God were in Christ.

John 17:11: Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

When God preserved Christ and raised him from the dead to his right hand, all his elect were preserved in Christ.

Jude 1:...sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

The prayer of faith is—"Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust."

II. THE CONFIDENCE OF CHRIST'S FAITH—V2: *O my soul thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord:*

The confidence of faith is in the innermost part—in the heart God has created anew. Many say God is their LORD with the lips only. Christ said of the religious men when he walked this earth.

Mark 7: 6: He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

But Christ Jesus said, "*O my soul thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord:*"—he believed in his heart.

The confidence of faith gives all allegiance to God and owns him as my Lord, my Master, my God, my Help, my Support, my All—v2: *O my soul*, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord. As the Mediator, made under the law, he came to serve Jehovah as the Representative and Substitute of his people—so he owned God the Father as his Master. Christ, from the heart, bowed to Jehovah—capital L.O.R.D, saying, v2: *O my soul*, thou hast said unto the LORD...Thou art my Master—lower case—L.o.r.d – v2: Thou art my Lord:

Application: We have not believed until we have bowed to Christ as our Lord and Master. That is what Christ said here to God the Father. "***O my soul thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord:***" This is the confidence of Christ's faith. Is Christ the confidence of our faith? He said, "Without me, you can do nothing."

III. WE SEE THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST'S FAITH. v2:...my goodness *extendeth* not to thee;

Remember, this is Christ Jesus the GodMan, the perfectly faithful servant of God the Father! Yet, listen to his modesty, "My goodness *extendeth* not to thee;"

I hear religious folks strutting like roosters, crowing about their faith, boasting of what all they have done for God. Of all the sons of Adam, "there is none that doeth good." (Ps 14: 1) But Christ is the one and only who is full of goodness—he can say "My goodness." Yet, he says, "My goodness, *extendeth* not to thee."

Application: True faith is not proud but humble.

The work of our Lord Jesus did not add anything to God. God would have remained glorious had he let the whole human race perish in their sins. We learn about the attributes and character of God by Christ's work and by his death at Calvary—but God did not stand in need of Christ's goodness.

Job 22:2: Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?

Job 35:6: If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? 7: If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? 8: Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art; and thy righteousness may profit the son of man.

Christ's goodness *extendeth* not to God, but here is the good news—Christ's goodness extends to his people—**v2: my goodness *extendeth* not to thee; 3: But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.**

Christ's people are "**Saints.**" Sanctified, set apart, by God the Father choosing them in Christ before the world was made—Christ became our Surety; sanctified—perfected—by Christ goodness—"for by one offering, he hath perfected forever all them that are sanctified." (Heb 10: 14); sanctified—made holy—by the Spirit of God effectually washing us, purging our conscience in the blood of Christ Jesus our Substitute.

Christ's people are "**the excellent**"—his nobles—his noblemen. True noblemen, true princes are those Christ has made "kings and priests unto God", "Princes in all the earth" (Ps 45: 16). Every believer is robed in Christ's righteousness. Heirs of the kingdom of God!

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Christ says, "**In whom is all my delight!**"

Proverbs 8: 29:...when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; 31: Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

Isaiah 43:4: Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Isaiah 62:4: Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

SoS 7:10: I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

Application: Brethren, if Christ's people mean this much to Christ—shouldn't his people be our choicest delight, too?

1 John 3: 16: Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. 17: But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18: My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Isaac Watts wrote:

Oft have my heart and tongue confessed
How empty and how poor I am;
My praise can never make thee blest,
Nor add new glories to thy name.
Yet, Lord, thy saints on earth may reap
Some profit by the good we do;
These are the company I keep,
These are the choicest friends I know.
Let others choose the songs of mirth
To give a relish to their wine;
I love the men of heav'nly birth,
Whose thoughts and language are divine.

IV. WE SEE CHRIST'S FAITH IS JEALOUS FOR GOD TO RECEIVE ALL THE GLORY--v4: Their sorrows shall be multiplied *that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.*

The same Lord Jesus who delights in his people is against those who worship other gods.

Their sorrows shall be multiplied.

They are made to sorrow by their leaders as they are forced to make many sacrifices, to withhold food and drink so their bodies suffer; forced to be up and doing which causes sorrows. Then there are the sorrows from God. Stings of conscience because the wrath of God lies upon them; it will be bad enough to meet God outside of Christ but to meet God trusting in your idols rather than in Christ—they will have a special portion in the lake of fire. True religion is full of comfort—false religion is full of sorrow and rigor by Pharaoh and his taskmasters.

They hasten after another god—full of zeal.

Romans 10: 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 5: For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. 6: But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise,...8: But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11: For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Christ the Great High Priest stands between the sinner and God—there is no other way to God but by Christ. Those who come to God in Christ, Christ represent them to God. He offers himself to God on their behalf. But when men who come with vain offerings, Christ says—**v4: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.**

Christ will gladly represent the weakest of his sheep. He said, "I call them by name." But those who worship another god, Christ will say, "I never knew you." Christ will not present them to God nor take up their names into his lips to make intercession for them.

Application: Christ is not in the midst of so-called churches who are saying that God must wait on the sinner to let God save them. Wherever sinners are being told their will is free to choose or resist, Christ is not in that! Where the lie is told that God loves everybody, Christ died for everybody, Christ is not at all involved in that idolatry.

Jeremiah 23: 31: Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. 32: Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

Christ says, "their offerings will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips."

True repentance, true faith is not merely changing doctrine—it is changing Gods! True faith has its part—its portion—no where else but in God. Christ is the Faithful One. He says—**v5: The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.**

As it was pictured in the Levites who were priests—they had no inheritance in the land because the LORD was their portion. So our Lord Jesus delighted that the Father was on his side, would maintain his right against all the wrongs of men and reserve his elect for him, as his lot and reward for ever.

Application: Is the LORD your portion? What are you looking to inherit? His people are looking to inherit the LORD himself. He is our portion; he supplies all our necessities now and forever. Everything this world can give you will one day be lost—no matter what it is! But by giving us himself, Christ gives us more than the devil or this world combined could ever offer—and our inheritance is eternal! By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,...we have an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Christ said this and we say this with Christ **v6: The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.**

V. CHRIST'S FAITH LOOKED TO GOD HIS FATHER FOR COUNSEL—v7: I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel:

As man, Christ spake not of himself but as his Father had taught him.

John 12: 49: For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50: And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Application: Our Redeemer went to his Father for direction, having received it, he blessed him for giving him counsel. Brethren, by his grace, we follow Christ and cease from trusting in our own understanding. We seek to be guided by the Spirit of God. And we thank him for giving us counsel.

His guidance is in the heart—**v7:...my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.** Someone said, "Wise men see more with their eyes shut by night than fools can see by day with their eyes open." Sinners choose the night to revel in their sins. The believer finds the night seasons to be quiet time, when we hear the soft still voices of our Redeemer, speaking into our heart. "Thine ears shall hear a voice behind thee, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left."

VI. CHRIST'S FAITH LOOKED TO GOD HIS FATHER IN THE MOST SEVERE TRIAL--V8: I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Acts 2: 25:...I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

When his time was come to go to the cross—our Lord Jesus did not set the Roman guard before his face, he set the LORD his Father before his face; he did not set the scourging before his face, he set the LORD God before his face; he did not set the cruel cross before his face, he set the LORD before his face. So by faith, Christ knew he should never be moved from accomplishing the redemption of his people. He trusted in the power of God at his right hand.

Application: Now brethren, let's learn from this. Instead of focusing our fleshly eye on the suffering that lies ahead of us, focus the eye of faith on the face of our Redeemer. Let us rely upon our Head, who has all power in heaven and in earth and all deep places.

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who *is* mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9: Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who *is* he *that* shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Here is Christ's word to us who fear God and obey Christ's voice.

Isaiah 50: 10: Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh *in* darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

When I rely entirely upon the Lord, by his presence with me:

- 1) I have this confidence concerning things without—**v8:...I shall not be moved.**
- 2) I have this cheer within--**v9: Therefore my heart is glad,**
- 3) I have rejoicing in my tongue—**v9: my glory rejoiceth:**
- 4) I have good hope for my dying body—**v9: my flesh also shall rest in hope.**

Psalm 16: 10: For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;

Our Savior did not go to the place of the damned. At his death his soul was committed to his Father, and was that same day in paradise: as he told the thief on the cross. It means "thou wilt not leave my body in the grave."

Psalm 16:10: neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

It means his body would not see decay.

Christ put away sin—so that unlike us—when his body entered the grave—it saw no corruption in those three days that he lay there—that bears witness to the fact that Christ put away sin when he said it is finished, I was finished—the end of sins.

Psalm 16: 11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life:

By raising Christ from the dead, Christ was the first to whom the path of life was shown and the first to ever tread this path. He is the firstborn, the first begotten from the dead. Others were raised before but Christ was the first raised to an immortal life. Death hath no more dominion over him. The view he had of this through faith, caused great joy and gladness in Christ at the time of his sufferings and death.

Application: Our Savior knows by experience how to comfort us when our head lays on that dying pillow.

VII. CHRIST'S FAITH WAS NOT CONFOUNDED--v11: In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

There in our human nature he is filled with fulness of joy, with a joy unspeakable and full of glory (see Ac 2:28)

Application: As it is with Christ our Head, so it shall be with the members of his body. now the presence of God puts more joy and gladness into our hearts. But then we shall enter into the joy of our Lord, into the presence of God in the next world, then everlasting joy will be upon our heads;

Revelation 21: 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Believe on Christ—you shall not be ashamed for doing so!

Amen!