

“The Lord Is My Inheritance”
(Psalm 16)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Many of the psalms deal with threats/dangers.
 - a. Those were dangerous times.
 - b. Especially for the king: kingdoms at war, threat of division and betrayal.

2. For this reason, many Psalms express dependence on the Lord for His help/protection.
 - a. Sometimes the psalmist draws confidence from particular attributes of God:
 - (i) His authority: “The Lord is King forever and ever” (10:16).
 - (ii) Truthfulness: “The Words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times. You, O Lord, will keep them; You will preserve him from this generation forever” (12:6-7).
 - (iii) Covenant mercy: “I have trusted in Your lovingkindness” (13:5).
 - (iv) Faithfulness: “God is with the righteous generation” (14:5).

 - b. But sometimes the psalmist focuses on the qualities that shows that he has an interest in the Lord, and therefore will receive His help:
 - a. Knows and trusts Him: “Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You” (9:10).
 - b. Walks in His ways: “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night” (1:1-2).
 - c. Is Righteous and upright: “The Lord is righteous; He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face” (11:7).
 - d. “O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart” (15:1).
 - e. This morning’s psalm has this personal focus.

B. Preview.

1. It’s a prayer for help.
 - a. “Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You” (v. 1).
 - (i) David was in trouble.
 - (ii) He again looks to God for help.

 - b. This is very practical, for we live in dangerous times - breakdown of morals, moral restraints, many forms of wickedness encouraged.
 - (i) The Lord’s restraint and protection may make it seem different.
 - (ii) But we’re all aware of what would happen if He didn’t.
 - (iii) Have you ever asked for the Lord’s protection?

- (a) From an enemy?
- (b) From some danger?
- (c) From poverty, disease, sickness?

- (iv) We all have; are we dependant on Him, really for everything.
- (v) So was David.

2. But why did he depend on God?
 - a. Certainly because He was the only one who could help; but knowing this, many don't call on Him.
 - b. It's because he loved God: you tend to rely on those you love.
 - c. Because he found his satisfaction in God: He knew God was his greatest good and all he needed.
 - d. Because he trusted God: He knew that God would deliver him.
 - e. God is honored when we express these things towards Him: love, satisfaction, trust.
 - f. God blesses those who have these things: with guidance, safety and blessing in this life, and blessing in the life to come.
 - g. At the same time, these characteristics show us that these blessings are ours.
3. This morning, I want us to see four things:
 - a. That we should love God.
 - b. That we should find our satisfaction in God.
 - c. That we should trust God.
 - d. If we do, the Lord will bless us.

II. Sermon.

A. First, we should love God.

1. David loved God, which is why he turned to Him. Notice:
 - a. He owned Him as His Lord: "You are *my* Lord" (v. 2).
 - b. He was David's greatest/only good:
 - (i) "I have no good besides You" (v. 2).
 - (ii) As to say, nothing else is good in comparison.
 - c. This love was also reflected in his love for the saints:
 - (i) "As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight" (v. 3).
 - (ii) Why? Because he sees God's nature in them.
 - d. It was further reflected in his hating false gods:
 - (i) "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" (v. 4).
 - (ii) He knew those who worshiped false gods dishonored the true God and would pay for their evil.
 - (iii) So he purposed to keep far from them.

- e. His love was not in word only, but in deed.
2. We are commanded to love God as well.
- a. By David's example.
 - b. By the greatest commandment: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).
 - c. The second greatest reminds us we are to extend this love to all the saints: "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (v. 31).
 - (i) This love naturally flows from our love to God.
 - (ii) "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). What do you think this means?
 - (iii) Thomas Watson, "The saints are the walking pictures of God. If God be our Father we shall love to see His picture of holiness in believers, shall pity them for their infirmities, but love them for their graces. . . . It may justly be suspected that God is not Father of those who love not His children. Though they retain the communion of saints in their creed, they banish the communion of saints out of their company" (*Treasury*).
 - d. And of course, if we love God, we will also hate false gods and stay far from them.
 - e. Our love will be more than in word only, but also in deed.
- B. Second, we should find our satisfaction in God.
1. The Lord was all David needed.
- a. This follows from loving Him the most.
 - b. The Lord was his inheritance: "The Lord is the portion of my inheritance" (v. 5). All he needed.
 - c. His cup of refreshment was the Lord, "The Lord is my cup" (v. 5).
 - d. The Lord was his possession, and He maintained that possession for him: "You support my lot" (v. 5).
 - e. David's portion was the best, because his was the city of Zion, where the Lord was pleased to put His name (2 Sam. 5:9): "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places" (v. 6).
 - f. The Lord's presence is what made His inheritance desirable: "Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me" (v. 6).
 - g. His Word also satisfied David's desire for wisdom, knowledge and direction: "I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night" (v. 7).
 - h. The Lord satisfied David's every need.
2. Is this what He is to us?
- a. Paul found contentment in any circumstances, because he found his satisfaction in Christ: "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of

being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:11-13).

- b. If we have the Lord, we too should be satisfied:
 - (i) We have the desire of our heart.
 - (ii) All the wisdom and knowledge we need to satisfy our souls.
- c. If we seek Him first, He has promised to give us everything else we need (Matt. 6:33).
- d. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matt. 5:6).
- e. Those who desire Him find satisfaction in Him.
- f. Have you found this satisfaction? The Lord is the only One who can give it.

C. Third, we should trust God.

- 1. David knew the Lord was faithful and so he placed his trust in Him.
 - a. His eyes were fastened on the Lord: “I have set the Lord continually before me” (v. 8).
 - b. He knew His promises were good, so he would not be moved: “Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken” (v. 8).
 - c. God’s trustworthiness gave him joy in the middle of his troubles: “Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices” (v. 9).
 - d. And it gave him the confidence that the Lord would keep him in life and in death: “My flesh also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay” (vv. 9-10).
 - (i) The Lord would protect him now from the grave.
 - (ii) Of course, David would eventually come to the grave, but in old age.
 - (iii) He would be gathered to heaven.
 - (iv) And his body one day raised.
- 2. Do we trust the Lord for our ultimate good and safety?
 - a. Are you looking to Him?
 - b. Do you believe His promises?
 - c. Does it make a difference in your life?
 - d. Your life is in His hands: you don’t need to be afraid.
 - e. And when your life is over and your body undergoes decay; He will raise it again.
 - f. Trust Him, do not doubt. All will be well. No one who trusts in Him will be disappointed.

D. Finally, if these things are true of us, the Lord will bless us.

- 1. David loved the Lord, found satisfaction in Him and trusted Him: this is why he received the Lord’s blessing.
 - a. He found guidance: “You will make known to me the path of life” (v. 11).
 - b. He found rejoicing: “In Your presence is fullness of joy” (v. 11).
 - c. He found everlasting pleasure: “In Your right hand there are pleasures forever” (v. 11).
 - d. He found this in life and would find it in death:

- (i) The Lord would protect him, so that he wouldn't die too soon.
- (ii) The Lord would protect him from hell, give him the pleasures and joys of heaven and raise his body on the last day.

- 2. The same will be true *for* us, if the same things are true *of* us.
 - a. He will guide us through His Word.
 - b. His Spirit will fill us with the fruits of joy and peace.
 - c. He will give us the everlasting kingdom He has promised to those who love Him.

III. Application.

- A. How can these things be when we are sinners who deserve hell and corruption?
 - 1. Only because of the One who has done these things perfectly:
 - a. Because of the One who loved His Father with His whole heart.
 - b. Who loved His saints enough to lay down His life for them.
 - c. Who hated false worship enough to repel the devil.
 - d. Who found His full satisfaction in God; took Him for His whole portion.
 - e. Who followed His Word perfectly and completely.
 - f. Who trusted that His Father would not abandon His soul to Sheol or allow His body to undergo corruption.
 - g. Who didn't see corruption because He had committed no sin.
 - h. Who was raised to glory and who enjoys the fullness of joy and pleasures that are in heaven.
 - 2. Jesus brought these blessings down to us:
 - a. So we may now live securely.
 - b. We may die securely.
 - c. If we love Him, find our satisfaction in Him, trust Him, He will deliver us in life and in death.
- B. If these things are true of us, we know we have these blessings:
 - 1. Christ works His image in His people.
 - 2. If that image is being formed in us, then we are His people and heirs of His kingdom.
 - So ask yourselves this morning:
 - a. Do I love God?
 - b. Do I love the saints?
 - c. Do I reject all other religions but the true religion?
 - d. Does God satisfy my soul?
 - e. Do I trust Him to my best interests in mind in life and in death?
 - f. If so, you will find joy and pleasure with the Lord forever, because of Christ.
 - g. If not, then trust in Him now. He is the only way. Amen.