



Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.
809 S. Davis Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31088
www.thegrovewr.org

David Anthony Clarke, Sr., Senior Pastor



Lesson 9: Psalm 16

Outline (*The outline comes from Wiersbe's The Bible Exposition Commentary with additional notes from other resources as noted.*)

Psalm 16

Author: David

Background: According to Wiersbe, this psalm may have been written shortly after the Lord gave His gracious covenant to David and assured him of an enduring throne (II Sam. 7).

Theme: The joys and benefits of a life lived in companionship with God. We enjoy these benefits now and eternally. –From *The Life Application Bible*

This is the first of psalms referred to as the Michtam psalm. Others are found in 56-60. The meaning of michtam is unclear, but they all end on a happy and triumphant note. This is also a Messianic psalm because in Peter's Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:25-28), he said it referred to Jesus. Paul does the same thing in Acts 13:35.

1. The Lord of Life (v.1-8)

Numerous scholars suggest that David does not appear to be threatened by any special danger. He simply calls upon God to continue his protecting care.¹ He has joy and confidence in God's continual care of him.

Verse two from the NLT: I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I

¹ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (96). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

have comes from you.”²

Question 1a.: What is David saying in verse two? Could it remind us of what we find in Ps. 73:25?

Psalm 73:25 ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire beside thee.

David not only takes delight in God, but also takes delight in the saints, those set aside for God. Here’s verse three from the NLT: The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!³

Verse three may remind us of what we read in Psa. 119:63!

Question 1b.: What are your thoughts on what David says in verse four about the multiplication of sorrows upon those who chase after other gods?

Question 1c.: What can we expect to multiply if we chase after the One and only living God?

Verse four: The prepositional phrase “of blood” may refer to human sacrifices (Isa 57:5–6) or to guilt due to bloodshed (Isa 1:15; 66:3).⁴

Verse five: The words “portion” and “cup” (v. 5) are metaphors for God’s sustenance (23:5).⁵

Verse six: “The lines,” etc.—in allusion to the ancient custom of marking out plots of land by measuring-lines. ⁶ David is saying he has been blessed with good land.

Verse seven: “I will give thee counsel...” may remind us of what is in Psa. 32:8! If you rejoice in God’s goodness and want to continue to do so, let the Lord lead you!

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 16:2). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 16:3). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (155). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁵ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (156). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁶ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I*. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (104). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Verse eight: David claims God’s promise that the wise (righteous) “will not be shaken” (cf. 15:5; 21:7; 62:2, 6; 112:6; Prov 10:30; 12:3).⁷

2. The Conqueror of Death (v.9-10)

It would be awful to delight in the Lord and His goodness in life and then lose these blessings at death (I Cor. 15:9). The real truth is that Jesus conquered death through His own death and resurrection. We also have this “living hope” (I Pt. 1:3ff).

Peter referred to these two verses in his sermon in Acts 2:25-28. Paul also refers to verse ten in Acts 13:35. Jesus conquered death and we have, too (I Cor. 15:51-57)!

3. The Joy of Eternity (v.11)

...at thy right hand—to which Christ was exalted (Ps 110:1; Ac 2:33; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3). In the glories of this state, He shall see of the travail (Is 53:10, 11; Php 2:9) of His soul, and be satisfied.⁸

Summary-write a summary of Psalm 16 in your own words in the space below:

⁷ Gaebelien, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (158). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁸ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments* (Ps 16:11). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.