

STATEMENTS OF FAITH: "Safe and Sound"

INTRODUCTION

- **Key Idea:** Psalm 16 is a **Psalm of Trust** which teaches us that God is constantly protecting and preserving His people.

As David writes this Psalm, he is most likely not in any immediate crisis. This Psalm speaks of a **disposition** not a **desperation**. It teaches us that **trust in God is a life choice** that the Christian ought to be making on a continual basis.

THE MEANS OF GRACE THAT ALLOW US TO PLACE OUR TRUST IN THE LORD:

A. The PROVISION of God (v.1-2)

- The NKJV reads: "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from you." (v.2)
- David's trust in the LORD is fed by this thought: that the God I trust is good.

A Brief Theology of God's Goodness:

1. **God is good** (Psalm 119:68) – Goodness is innate to the nature of God.
2. **God is good and does good** (Psalm 23:6) – God's providence works on behalf of the believer.
3. **God has good laid up for us in heaven** (Psalm 31:19) – God has storehouses of goodness.
4. **God can take bad things and use them for good ends** (Psalm 119:71)

- **Application:** The believer must take care to recognize, recount, and relish the goodness of God.

B. The PEOPLE of God (v.3-4)

- David drew strength from the people of God. *Fear is contagious but faith is contagious as well.*
- It is easier to trust God when you are around others who are trusting God.

"It goes against the whole spirit of the Psalms to take these communal laments, these congregational praises, these corporate intercessions, and use them as cozy formulas for private solace." (Eugene Petersen)

C. The PROVIDENCE of God (v.5-6)

- Using the language of the land inheritance which was so near and dear to the Israeli heart, David casts God as His great possession. "The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup" (v.5)
- "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places" (v.6) – refers to the providential ordering of His life by God.

D. The PRECEPTS of God (v.7-8)

- "I will bless the Lord who gives me **counsel**;" (v.7) – The word "counsel" is often used synonymously with God's Word (Psalm 119:24). *In the time of crisis, who are you listening to?*

Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, believed the last prevailing thought in one's conscious mind before going to sleep should be some portion of God's Word. He called this his H.W.L.W. Principle (His Word the Last Word).

E. The PROMISE of God (v.9-11)

- David's whole being was excited about the **prospect of eternity with God**.

Admiral James Stockdale was a prisoner of war for eight years during the Vietnam War. After he was released he was asked how he survived. He replied, "I never lost faith in the end of the story."

Sermon Application Questions

March 22, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Ben Patterson has written, "When circumstances aren't as agreeable as I want them to be, I practice a little spiritual discipline that has managed to feed my hope and keep my joy, nevertheless. I have a long version and a short version: Someone will ask me how I am, and I'll answer, "Other than the fact that all my sins are forgiven and that I'm going to live in heaven eternally in the joy of God, I'm not doing too well." The look on the questioner's face always amuses me. . . That's the long version. The short version is simply to answer, "I'm fundamentally sound."

What was your response to this perspective?

How does this perspective shape your view of the circumstances that you face today?

2

Pastor Philip made the statement that "Fear is contagious, but faith is contagious as well."

1 Samuel 23:16 says that Jonathan came alongside David and "strengthened his hand in God."

How can you gain **strength from other Christians** to have faith in the LORD during time?

How can you be a **source of strength and encouragement** to other Christians during this time?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

1 Samuel 23:16

And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this."

Psalm 31:19

Oh, how abundant in your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

Psalm 119:24

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

Psalm 119:68

You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Jude 1:1-2 (NKJV)

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Read **Psalm 16:3-4** carefully and note the contrast between David's perspective on **believers** (v.3) and David's perspective on **unbelievers** (v.4).

2

Pastor Philip taught us that the Psalms are always putting people in categories, drawing a distinction between the **godly** and **ungodly**.

Think through this contrast with a specific application towards the Coronavirus pandemic. How should the believer's response be different than the world's response to this threat?

How are you making personal application of this truth to your life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

One of the challenges of life's storms is to tempt you to doubt the goodness of God.

In light of this temptation, Pastor Philip exhorted us as a church to **recognize**, **recount** and **relish** the goodness of God.

Turn the pages of your life and think through the times when God has:

1

- **Healed a sickness**
- **Met a need**
- **Delivered you from evil**
- **Answered a prayer**
- **Shown Himself to be faithful**

What are some specific ways that God has shown His goodness to you in your life? How does this recounting of God's goodness strengthen your faith in the Lord today?

Pastor Philip made an appeal to unbelievers who were hearing this message to forsake their idols and come to know the true hope that is found in the gospel of Christ. He noted:

2

"Idolatry is letting something or someone take the place of God as your source of joy and ground of confidence. . . The sorrow being spoken of here is the sorrow of finding that your gods are false and your trust is misplaced."

Take a moment to pray for the unbelievers in your life that God would use this pandemic to soften their hearts to the gospel.