

The Path of Life
Psalm 16
November 14, 2021

Today we have another of David's Psalms. David is talking again of taking refuge in God. He goes so far as to say that without God in his life, there would be nothing good. How different that is from those who have other gods in their lives who have been lied to to think there would be **NO** good in their lives **IF** they trusted in the Triune God for their lives.

David, all glory to God. Unbelieving man, all glory to man. Those who trust in other gods will drink sorrow. David doesn't even want to go there. No, he knows his God is THE God and he will not even take the names of those who trust in other gods on his lips. Why should he even give them the time of day if they are wanting to follow a lie?

We know that verse ten in this Psalm is one that we see Jesus in. We profess that Jesus did die. He died but then went to show Himself alive in Hell, in Sheol, proclaiming victory over death and the devil before rising from death to life, the morning of the third day. That is the reason that there is a path for our lives that is a path of life and not of death.

David knows the Lord has his back, for He is at David's right hand, the hand we normally associate with power and those decisions that require power to make. David knows if he trusts in the power of the Lord that is right there, he will not be shaken, like a house built not on sand but on a foundation of rock. How could he go wrong, resting on the Rock of Ages as he travels down the path of life the Lord has ahead of him?

David lived so many years ago but we look to him, not only as the one through whom the Messiah would come but one who ruled in such a way that Jews since then have continued to look at what he did as what it would be like when the Messiah does come to make all things new.

We, even though we may not have any Jewish blood in us also look to the one to come through the line of David, as our Messiah, our deliverer, to rule as David did Who came to make all things new, not only new in this world but more importantly in the world to come.

Hebrews 10, part of which is the second lesson for today makes the point that the sacrifices of the past weren't able to take away sin. Those sacrifices that had to be done day after day, year after year were never going to be enough, no there had to

come a perfect sacrifice, a sacrifice once for all time and that sacrifice came in the form of the Son of God, Jesus our Savior who not only died but rose to life, paying for all sin and granting forgiveness for all, for all time, past, present and future. It was by His blood and not the blood of bulls or lambs or doves that contained His perfect life blood that we have before us, on the path of life, to eternal life with Him.

Being a Christian all my life, it is a little hard to know what it would be like to live a life NOT on the path of life. Maybe we should have some of you who may not have been a Christian all your lives, tells us what it was like when you were taken from the path of death to the path of life.

David doesn't want to deal with those who are choosing the path of death, no, he wants to focus on the Lord, the Lord of his life. We too want to focus on Him. He is our only source of hope for the path of life we are on that leads to life everlasting.

The thing of it is, are there times in life when you feel closer to Him than others? Are there times when life gets so hectic that you don't get to the portals of prayer or you have that question about God's Word and you don't take the time to crack open the Bible and look at or search for the answer to your question. Let's face it, it may not be that easy especially if you are using another version that maybe isn't the way you remember it. Each version might translate the Greek or the Hebrew a little differently. That doesn't mean the one version is better than the other but the words may be in different order or another word that means the same thing as the word you remember instead. So it may take some time to find the answer and once you get to looking, you hate not to find the answer and time may fly while you are having fun.

Yes, life happens and as a Christian, you may get a little complacent knowing that your future at the end of this path of life is secure in Jesus. You know that when the Lord decides to take you, you will finally be going to the perfect home for you. You will not have to face what you have to face each day from the toil and troubles of this life to the daily challenges of just making it through each day with work, doctors, meal preparation and clean up. This life will be finished and your life will then be lived forever in the promised bliss of heaven.

We are all looking to that day but as David knew, there are so many who have the sorrows of running after other gods. You might be thinking there really are no other gods and yet as the word "god" is spelled with a small g and not a capital G, it points to a word that has no real person behind it. Yet, people treat the created things in this world as gods. We normally think of those other gods as possibly idols made with the

hands of man, like the jade Buddas or some statue of a person or maybe like the golden calf shaped by those of Aaron's day that came about before Moses came down from the mountain after his 40 day stay with God.

There are other so called "gods" that people make for themselves that really take the place of God in their lives. So many live in the world of sports, either thinking their participation in them will give them what they want out of this life or maybe even in being the biggest fan, it will give them a reason for life. Other gods could even be a family or maybe even the one you have become one with.

The Lord knows who or what it is. David doesn't want to take their names on his lips but the Lord knows their names and the "names" of their so called gods. Jesus died for these who have rejected Him as their God for someone or something else. He knows and in spite of there turning their backs on Him, He loves them anyway. Yes, He loves them even though they have tried to not have to deal with the fact that there is one who paid the ultimate price for them.

You might ask: "What if they haven't heard of Jesus?" Can they reject Him even though they haven't heard of Him? Yes, just because you don't know something doesn't mean you shouldn't. All you have to do is to look around you. How did it all get here? I know you have been told it all happened with a big bang but what caused the big bang? Oh some may say it was a dot in time. Where did the dot come from. If anyone looks around they would understand what has been proven from science and that is nothing comes from nothing. There has to be a source for life as well as a rock. The organization we have see in the universe has to have an organizer as well as creator. The question as to who that is has to come into the mind.

The question as to who the creator and organizer has to come to mind as it has already been planted in the heart. They have in them the knowledge of right and wrong and of someone or something that is greater than themselves. They may have tried to hide that from themselves thinking that it is going to adversely affect them but they need to have the Holy Spirit through someone like you to point to the fact as Romans 3:23-24 states: For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

They need to see and hear from you, that we are all in the same boat when it comes to our standing with God apart from Jesus. There is NO distinction, ALL, you, me and all others, all have sinned, and yes, DESERVE the fires of hell.

You or they may say they aren't that bad and yet when you have your windshield cleaned by someone and then you go down the road and try to look out the window you don't have a clear view, do you say it is OK, you can kind of see through it, that is right before you have an accident that ultimately takes your life. More than likely you, even you who are not perfect want a job you paid for someone to do, to be perfect or nearly perfect.

God's standard is pure perfection. He is Holy. He is perfect and for Him to sign off on someone that is not perfect it is not possible. Then a person might wonder how in the world someone could be saved and that is where Jesus comes in with His white robe of righteousness given to all who believe. That white robe covers us, makes us right with God, we are seen as perfect even though under that robe, there is nothing perfect.

You may say, you have a hard time with this. Yes, it may not be easy but what about hell, I'm sure that constant burning, with no relief will be hard as well. Why not do what the Holy Spirit gives you to do, whatever it may be?

The evangelism committee has been looking at a course on how to gardening vs harvesting. We know it takes a long time for things to grow and mature to where you can harvest and as they are learning in the course, it isn't that much different in dealing with people in helping them to grow and question their wrong beliefs to come to the point where they are ready for the Gospel and what Jesus has done for them.

We are studying the miracles of Jesus in the Sunday morning Bible Study now but when we get through those miracles in the study, it might be good to have a study on gardening, dealing with those lives in our lives in a way that helps them to grow to see the need for the Savior. They are challenged in their ability to believe. They need to grow into the fact that they need Jesus, even though they don't know Jesus or who He really is.

As David says: The Lord makes known to him the path of life, might the Lord make known to others, through you the path you are on as you live out your lives to Him? We know the joy we have in knowing there is something so much better for us past this life. We know that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God and when He comes, we will be with Him in a perfect world forever. It is not only for us but for the whole world, our world and the whole great world we live in today.