

“WHAT IS LIFE?”
Reflections from Psalm 16
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INTRODUCTION

What is life? It is but a vapor. It is but grass and flowers in the desert. It can be hard, disappointing, and cruel. Sometimes it seems purposeless, often painful, disappointing, confusing.

Why are we here?

Where will we go when life is over?

How can we be sure that we will have a bright future?

The Psalmist, David, has answers for us in Psalm 16.

Anyone who has been here and is now gone would tell us the same thing if he were able to do so!

Let us listen to David’s words given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God.

Foolish would we be if we ignore them!

You Must Know Life’s Purpose And Meaning And Enjoy Life While Here, AND EVEN MORE HEREAFTER.

- I. A PLEA TO GOD (1)—“Preserve me—for I take refuge in you.”

- II. A PURPOSE IN LIFE (2-4)
 - A. All Good is in God—nothing beyond Him (2)
 - B. Godly people are a Delight (3)
 1. They are “holy ones”
 2. They are “noble ones”
 - C. Ungodly are a disappointment (4)
 1. Their “sorrows” are multiplied—due to following false gods—idols; **They make a bad “deal”!**
 2. Their worship is repulsive to God—and should be to us (“blood offerings”).
 3. The names of false gods and their values must not be on our lips.

- III. A PORTION IN LIFE (5-6)
 - A. **The Lord** is our portion, our inheritance, our cup.
 - B. **Our inheritance** is Wonderful:
 - Pleasant Places
 - Beautiful

- IV. THE PRESENCE OF GOD (7-11)
 - A. Now (7-9)
 1. Divine Guidance (7)
 2. Divine Protection (8)
 - This is due to the fact that we “set the Lord continually before us!

- He is at our right hand.
 - We shall not be shaken! “I shall not be, I shall not be moved.”
3. Divine Security (9)
- My Heart is glad.
 - My Soul rejoices.
 - My Body (flesh) dwells securely—**even though it gets weak, sick, and dies!**
- B. Later (10-11)
1. Death will not possess and control me (10)
- Not surrendered to death and hell
 - Not abandoned to corruption
2. I will have Life in Heaven (11)
- The **path of life** begins now—continues into eternity
 - Fullness of joy in His presence
 - Pleasures forever at His right hand

BUT, HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? WE DO DIE; OUR BODIES DO DECAY; WE DON'T COME BACK TO EARTH.

The answer is in Acts 2:25-33:

- vv. 25-28 quote this psalm
- v. 29 shows that David is not the real fulfillment of it.
- vv. 30-33 show us that it is true only because of Jesus Christ and what He has done.

CONCLUSION

Because Jesus lives, I live also and will continue to live after I die!

But, this is not automatic for everyone—it is only true for those, who like David, have put their trust in Him.

If Jim [your departed loved one] could speak to you today—this is what he would tell you!

Come to Jesus Christ now—find in Him a PURPOSE, a PORTION, GUIDANCE, PROTECTION, SECURITY, and later LIFE IN HEAVEN.

Ask Him to cleanse you of your sins, transform your life, and give you eternal life in Him.

This is your choice—Occasions like today give us opportunity to reflect on the meaning of life.

You Must Know Life's Purpose And Meaning And Enjoy Life While Here, AND EVEN MORE HEREAFTER.

Will you listen to God's words given to us through David?

Will you Trust Jesus Christ and find **TRUE LIFE** in Him?

[Preached at the funeral service for Jim Hiner: Saturday, June 22, 2013.]