

Psalms 16-18

Well today again we are going to be looking at 3 Psalms and if you just glance at chapter 18 it has 50 verses in it so we are going to jump right in here this morning and work through these.

Chapter 16 if you look at that says that it is a Michtam of David and this is the first of 6 Psalms that are labeled in this way. The others are found over in Psalms 56-60 and the word Michtam is really a little bit of a mystery as to what it means.

I will also say before we get into the text of chapter 16 that this is really a triumphant Psalm that is before us as David is rejoicing in the Lord and His goodness in his life.

Verse 1 says this Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. As we begin it would seem that there was some kind of danger in the life of David, something had gone wrong and it was so difficult that he was asking God to preserve and watch over him.

I appreciate it that David put his trust in the Lord. He wasn't looking for solutions from the world nor was he frantically trying to make things work out but instead his appeal was that God would watch over him.

That's some good advice for us and something we should strive for as troubles come upon us...To learn to trust in the Lord, to learn that He will watch over us and take care of us. It's a hard thing to learn, something I'm learning on a regular basis as well but the best place we can be is just sitting in the preservation of God and allowing Him to watch over us.

Look at verse 2 which says ²**O my soul, you have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.”** Again, here you might mark in your Bibles that we have LORD which is the covenant name of God and we also have right after that the word Lord which means master or the one who is in authority in David’s life.

Notice David here just points out that he has nothing good in his life apart from God. You and I need to learn that in our lives as well. There is not one good thing in us. So often we think we have something to offer to the world and the Lord brings us through all kinds of things to bring us to the end of ourselves.

I appreciate what Paul went through in his life. By the time he was passing through his final days in a letter he wrote to Timothy he simply said “I am the chief of sinners” Paul had learned that he was sinful through and through and any good thing that came from him was simply because of the blessing of the Lord in his life.

Verse 3 says this ³**As for the saints who are on the earth, “They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”** David was thankful for the saints or the godly who were on the earth and he took great joy in them saying they were his delight.

This reminds me of what John the apostle said in 3 John verses 3-4 which say this ³**For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.** ⁴**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**

You know it’s a blessing for me and I know you guys are blessed as well when you hear of how others are walking with Jesus on a regular basis. I love it when I get to hear from you guys how the Lord is using

you in the lives of others and I love seeing how all of us are growing in the Lord and moving forward in our faith.

There should be great comfort in the fact that we have each other as we follow Jesus.

Verse 4 says this ⁴Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips. David rejoiced in the saints and then he points out that sorrows are multiplied for those that follow after other gods. It's a fact that those who worship false gods eventually find themselves empty. There are so many in this world that put all their efforts into finding truth and enlightenment and yet at the end of the day there is only One that truly satisfies and His name is Jesus.

Often in David's day there were offerings of blood made to other gods and David here says I will have no part in that and he refused to let the names of the false gods that were in the world come from his lips.

I think David may have been remembering here that the Lord is the one that satisfies him, that he had no desire to seek anything else. I can relate to that in my life. I tried and tried to find joy, peace and purpose through all kinds of methods but it was only when I came to Jesus that I was truly satisfied.

What Jesus said in John 4:13-14 rings true when I think of this verse when it says ¹³Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into

everlasting life.” David could testify to this as he knew there was satisfaction in none but One and that was in the LORD his God. Everything else was worthless, nothing else mattered and he refused to look anywhere but unto the Lord for his needs.

Verses 5-6 say ⁵**O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.** ⁶**The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.** David was fully satisfied with the Lord being his inheritance. It's as if David is saying Lord all I need is you...What you have given me and what I have eternally in you is more than enough Lord.

David knew the Lord was watching over him, maintaining him and working in amazing ways as he passed through this world.

David even speaks of the good inheritance that is his...Do you know that if you are in Jesus that one day you have an inheritance that is waiting for you? I can't wait for that day. Jesus said this over in John 14:1-3 when He spoke to His disciples saying **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.**

I can't wait for the day I get to embrace my eternal dwelling that Jesus is working on and preparing for me. I know I don't deserve any good thing but in Christ I have a rich inheritance that is waiting for me. I suppose I would simply say “Why live for the riches of this world, when the eternal riches that are in Christ are infinitely better”

Look at verses 7-8 which say this **7 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. 8 I have set the Lord always before me;**

Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. David here speaks of how the Lord had given him counsel. Has the Lord ever done that for you? As you have sought for wisdom in a situation all of a sudden the Lord will give you the answer...It's an amazing thing indeed when the Lord speaks. It can happen in the night as well, that has happened for me on multiple occasions when sleep is fleeing and I am saying "Lord what am I supposed to do"

I think the key is to put the Lord always before us...We ought to let the Lord be the one that sets the tone for our life rather than holding on to our own thoughts and ideas. We should make it our ambition to simply let Him be our Master and Lord. When someone is your Lord you follow them, you don't make your own decisions.

I would add that when the Lord is your authority that you won't be moved in life. The world around you may be falling apart but when Jesus is Lord there is great hope and confidence.

Look with me at verse 9 which says this **9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.** Because David has trusted in the Lord and because the Lord had given him counsel and the Lord was always set before him and the Lord was at his right hand and the Lord had given him a rich inheritance David says his heart would be glad and he would rejoice and his flesh would rest in hope.

I really do love it that we like David can have a quiet confidence and strength in our lives as we put the Lord first in all things. I'm so

thankful for the peace the Lord can give us as we submit ourselves to His lordship.

Perhaps today you don't have peace in your life...It would be good to just check your heart and see if you are resting in the hope that is ours in Jesus.

Now as this Psalm concludes here in verses 10-11 you are going to see that we turn to the prophetic. If you look at these verses they say **¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Now in the New Testament over in Acts 2:27 as Peter was giving the gospel for the first time after the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples he quoted this verse speaking of Jesus and His resurrection and victory over death and then again over in Acts 13:35 Paul quoted the same passage of scripture.

The reality is the body of Jesus did not see corruption and Jesus was not left in the place of the dead for He rose again the 3rd day...You and I could say that the inheritance we are waiting on in Christ is only available because Jesus had victory over death, that death could not hold Him.

Ok let's move on here to Psalm 17 and we are told that it was a prayer of David. And so here we get a little glimpse directly into how David laid things out before the Lord.

Look at verses 1-2 which say **17 Hear a just cause, O Lord, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful**

lips. ² Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright. As this begins I think David shows a great reverence unto the Lord as he simply asks that God would hear him, that God would attend to his cry and that God would give ear to his prayer which came from pure lips.

I am reminded of the Lord and how He taught the disciples to pray when He said they were to pray saying “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” There ought always to be a reverence and a proper fear of the Lord in our hearts when we address Him. David shows that here as he requests the Lord might hear him.

And he knows that any kind of vindication which means to be seen as right and free of guilt would come from the Lord and he asks that the eyes of the Lord would be on the things that were good and upright.

Verses 3-5 say ³You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. ⁴ Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. ⁵ Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip. I think what David is bringing to the Lord is that as far as he could see in his own life that he had done nothing that was deserving of what he was being accused of.

He mentions that God had tested his heart and certainly God does see the depths and the motives of our hearts and you and I know that we don't even really know our own hearts...David says the Lord had found nothing in his life and that doesn't mean David was saying he was perfect but in regards to what he was facing he believed he had done no wrong to warrant what was happening.

He could even look at his own mouth and say that he had purposed not to speak improperly.

In verse 5 he asks the Lord to uphold his steps not in his paths but in the paths of the Lord and I think that's a great place to find ourselves isn't it? To find ourselves in the paths of God, submitting to His will and living for Him each day.

Look at verses 6-9 which say **⁶I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God;**

Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech.

⁷Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand,

O You who save those who trust in You

From those who rise up against them.

⁸Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

⁹From the wicked who oppress me,

From my deadly enemies who surround me.

When David called to the Lord he had a confidence that God would hear him. Do you have that same confidence in your own life? That every moment you cry unto the Lord that He hears you, that He sits with you in your times of trouble, that He desires that you would cry out to Him? David knew the Lord was the One he could run to at any time and for any situation in his life.

He asks the Lord to show his lovingkindness to him and to save him as God saved all those who have trusted in Him. He even asks the Lord to keep him as the apple of his eye and that can mean that David is asking God to keep him in the pupil or the focus of His eye.

He also asks the Lord to hide Him under the shadow of His wings. When a chick is under the wings of their mother there is safety, protection and warmth and certainly the Lord is like a powerful eagle who protects His young...as David requests this he specifically asks the Lord to protect him from the wicked who oppress him and the deadly enemies that surrounded him...It would seem once again that David's life may have been in danger.

Look with me at verses 10-12 which say ¹⁰**They have closed up their fat hearts;**

With their mouths they speak proudly.

¹¹**They have now surrounded us in our steps;**

They have set their eyes, crouching down to the earth,

¹²**As a lion is eager to tear his prey,**

And like a young lion lurking in secret places.

David now speaks of his enemies when he says they have closed up their fat hearts and they speak proudly and they have surrounded us it says and they are like a lion that is eager to destroy its prey.

The idea is David saw his enemies as those that hunted his life and their desire was for his destruction.

Verses 13-14 say ¹³**Arise, O Lord,**

Confront him, cast him down;

Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword,

¹⁴**With Your hand from men, O Lord,**

From men of the world who have their portion in this life,

And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure.

They are satisfied with children,

And leave the rest of their possession for their babes.

David asks the Lord to arise on his behalf, he asks the Lord to confront his enemies, to cast them down and to deliver his life from the wicked. David knows he can't fix his problems on his own and instead is asking the Lord to set his path straight.

I have to say I am guilty many times of trying to figure things out from my own perspective and according to my own wisdom. I have tried many times in my life to do things on my own...The Lord teaches me often that I can't do anything without Him going before me and I've learned in my life and am learning in my life to lay all things before the Lord just as David is doing here.

Notice that David says of his enemies that they have their portion in this life...There are many in this world that have this as part of who they are. They live for this world, they think nothing of their eternity and they only work towards having enough to leave for their children.

I have to tell you that the things of this world are going to perish one day, that you can't take them with you into eternity. You can have the whole world in the here and now but if you forfeit your soul and refuse to live for Jesus accepting Him in your heart by faith then I have to tell you that you are going to find yourself with nothing.

In contrast to this David says this of himself in verse 15 which says **¹⁵As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.** David knew that he was right with God, that he was living properly that he was looking forward to the day that he awoke in the likeness of the Lord.

I have to ask you this morning are you looking forward to seeing Jesus in eternity? Are you looking forward to leaving behind these old tents

that are our bodies that are falling apart? One day if you are in Jesus you will step into a glorious heavenly body that isn't prone to decay like the ones we live in now.

Can you imagine the day that you get to see the Lord face to face? How glorious it will be to behold the face of the Savior. To stand in His presence, to kneel before Him in worship, to rejoice with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The godless won't have that will they? Instead they will find themselves in hell for all of eternity for the simple reason that they chose not to accept Jesus in their hearts.

Well let's move on to Psalm 18 here this morning and like I said earlier it is 50 verses long and so we aren't going to be doing a deep dive on this today but instead we'll kind of do a flyover of the chapter.

It begins with one of the longer introductions in the Psalms by saying it was to the chief musician and it was written by David who considered himself a servant of the Lord and these words were a song that David sung on the day the Lord delivered him from all his enemies...AND from the hand of Saul...Isn't it interesting that David makes a distinction between his enemies and Saul...It's like he separates Saul from those that came against him.

I don't think David ever really saw Saul as an adversary...he always seemed to show respect for the king and submission to the king to the best of his ability.

So this Psalm probably took place after David had finally been made king and we might remember it had taken many years from the time David was anointed king until the time he actually got to be the king.

Let's look at verses 1-3 which say **18 I will love You, O Lord, my strength. ²The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

³I will call upon the Lord, *who is worthy to be praised;* So shall I be saved from my enemies. I have to point out to you as this begins that David had a deeply personal and experiential relationship with God. Notice that 8 times in these 3 verses he speaks of who God is to him. He says God is his strength, his rock, his fortress, his deliverer, his strength, his shield, the horn of his salvation and his stronghold.

It would seem that in every aspect of David's life that God was his all and as he reflected on that the natural response is to come to a place of praise as he says he would call upon the Lord for he is greatly to be praised.

Have you discovered that God is your everything in life? Who is the Lord to you? Is he your refuge, is He a faithful friend, is He the One that sees you through every situation in life? Has he personally rescued you from your enemies as He had David?

I'm so thankful that the Lord can be our everything, that He meets us where we are and gives us strength and grace in each moment we face.

Look at verses 4-6 which say **⁴The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. ⁵The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. ⁶In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to**

His ears. David had been in tough situations and you can just read about it in 1 and 2 Samuel in your Bibles but the Lord had delivered him and helped him every time. Death had surrounded him, everything had seemed to be impossible and yet the Lord had heard his cries and come to his rescue.

We might notice that verses 4 and 5 laid the foundation for David seeking the Lord and calling out to Him...Certainly trials have a way of getting our attention and causing us to seek the Lord.

So David cries to the Lord and then watch what God did on his behalf in verses 7-19 which say **7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.**

8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.

9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies.

12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire.

13 The Lord thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.

**14 He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe,
Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.**

**15 Then the channels of the sea were seen,
The foundations of the world were uncovered
At Your rebuke, O Lord,
At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.**

**16 He sent from above, He took me;
He drew me out of many waters.**

**17 He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me,
For they were too strong for me.**

**18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
But the Lord was my support.**

**19 He also brought me out into a broad place;
He delivered me because He delighted in me.**

Now obviously this is poetic as David is describing all the Lord had done on his behalf. For David as he had seen the Lord deliver him on repeated occasions it was as if when he cried out to the Lord that God shook the earth, and the foundations of the hills were shaken and smoke came from the nostrils of God and he would even bow the heavens to rescue him...He even says of God that He thundered from heaven on his behalf and lightnings were in abundance and hailstones would come down and coals of fire.

The idea is that God would do whatever it took to protect and work in the life of His servant David. I'm thankful that the Lord has a plan for our lives and He has specific things for us to accomplish and while we are walking out that plan in the will of the Lord it is as if the world

simply cannot touch us...until the moment the Lord has completed what He started in us. The Lord had a plan for David's life and He certainly saw that through, no matter how hard the world would come against him.

Verses 20-24 say ²⁰The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God. ²² For all His judgments were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me. ²³ I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. ²⁴ Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

David again speaks of how he is a person that knows in his heart that he wants to serve God and he strives to do so. David is said to be a man after God's own heart and even though he did have some failures in his life the evaluation of God was that he was a man that desperately wanted to serve Him.

This reminds me of what Paul said as he went through life when he was able to say "Follow me as I follow Christ" Both of these men had a confidence in their walks with God and were not afraid to lean into that asking the Lord to work on their behalf.

Look at verses 25-27 which say ²⁵With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; ²⁶ With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. ²⁷ For You will save the

humble people,

But will bring down haughty looks. Perhaps David understood what we have over in Galatians which speaks of how those that sow to the Spirit will reap from the Spirit and those that sow to the flesh will reap from the flesh.

We might even ask which of these two characteristics do you see in yourself? Are you merciful, are you blameless, do you live a pure life? Or do you live the life of a devious person who is full of pride.

God is clear in the Word that He is decidedly and forever against those that are proud while He gives grace to those that are humble. David consistently found himself in a place of dependance upon the Lord to work in his problems. He knew if the Lord didn't act he was in big trouble.

Verses 28-30 say ²⁸ For You will light my lamp;
The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

²⁹ For by You I can run against a troop,
By my God I can leap over a wall.

³⁰ As for God, His way is perfect;

The word of the Lord is proven;

He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

David knew the Lord would lead his way in life and even shine light in the dark places he found himself...And David had seen the Lord do supernatural things through his life. He had conquered the giant Goliath, he had seen the Lord allow him to slay 10 thousands of his enemies, he had seen the Lord protect him...in every way the Lord had been a shield for him as David trusted in the Lord...and the word of God to him had been proven. We might think of God's word to a young

David that one day he would be king...and then think of all that took place that led to David finding himself in the very place God had said.

Verses 31-45 say ³¹ For who is God, except the Lord?

And who is a rock, except our God?

³² It is God who arms me with strength,

And makes my way perfect.

³³ He makes my feet like the feet of deer,

And sets me on my high places.

³⁴ He teaches my hands to make war,

So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵ You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;

Your right hand has held me up,

Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁶ You enlarged my path under me,

So my feet did not slip.

³⁷ I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them;

Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁸ I have wounded them,

So that they could not rise;

They have fallen under my feet.

³⁹ For You have armed me with strength for the battle;

You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

⁴⁰ You have also given me the necks of my enemies,

So that I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴¹ They cried out, but *there was* none to save;

Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them.

⁴² Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind;

I cast them out like dirt in the streets. ⁴³ **You have delivered me from the strivings of the people;**

You have made me the head of the nations;

A people I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁴ **As soon as they hear of me they obey me;**

The foreigners submit to me.

⁴⁵ **The foreigners fade away,**

And come frightened from their hideouts.

David here just continues to recount the faithfulness of God in his life as he mentions the Lord is a rock and that there is only One God who is the LORD...He speaks of God watching over him and making his feet like the feet of a deer and that the Lord had taught him the ways of war and to be able to bend the bow.

He speaks of the gentleness of God and how it had made Him great and the Lord had enlarged the path before him so that his feet did not slip...Certainly David faced hard times in life impossible times you could say as he ran from King Saul...The Lord protected him and ministered to him along the way.

David knew the Lord was the reason he had been able to pursue his enemies and he speaks of the victories that God had given him. We even see that David fought his enemies with all his strength...and I think sometimes you and I need to fight harder against our flesh as we look to serve Jesus. May we be relentless in our pursuit of holiness and victory that can be found in Jesus.

Look at verses 46-50 which say ⁴⁶ **The Lord lives!**

Blessed be my Rock!

Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

47 It is God who avenges me,

And subdues the peoples under me;

48 He delivers me from my enemies.

You also lift me up above those who rise against me;

You have delivered me from the violent man.

49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,

And sing praises to Your name.

50 Great deliverance He gives to His king,

And shows mercy to His anointed,

To David and his descendants forevermore.

Do you know in your life today that God lives? Do you know that He is a rock to all who trust in Him? Do you know that God is the One that will avenge us and watch over us regularly? Do you know that He is the one that can deliver us from our enemies?

As the Lord works on your behalf do you praise Him regularly? Do you give thanks to God before both believers and unbelievers?

I think all of us ought to be able to sit down and write out a large list of ways the Lord has delivered us and worked in us and been mighty on our behalf and the result of that should be to produce praise within us.

Perhaps today you need to stop and consider all the Lord has done on your behalf? David here in this Psalm is recounting the victories of God on his behalf and remembering the mighty deeds of God as he finally found rest against his enemies.

Today it is fitting I believe that as we close we worship...perhaps you should ask yourself who is the Lord to you as you have gone through life? How many times has He shown up when things seemed

impossible? How many times has God changed the circumstances that seemed so difficult? Let's praise Him for He is worthy...Let's praise Him for the salvation that is found in Jesus...let me pray for us.

Psalms 16-18 “Setting The Lord Before Us Always”

Psalm 16

Verse 3

3 John 3-4

Verse 4

John 4:13-14

Verses 5-6

John 14:1-3