

IS GOD FOR US, OR FOR HIMSELF?

The Happiness of God:

The Foundation of Christian Hedonism

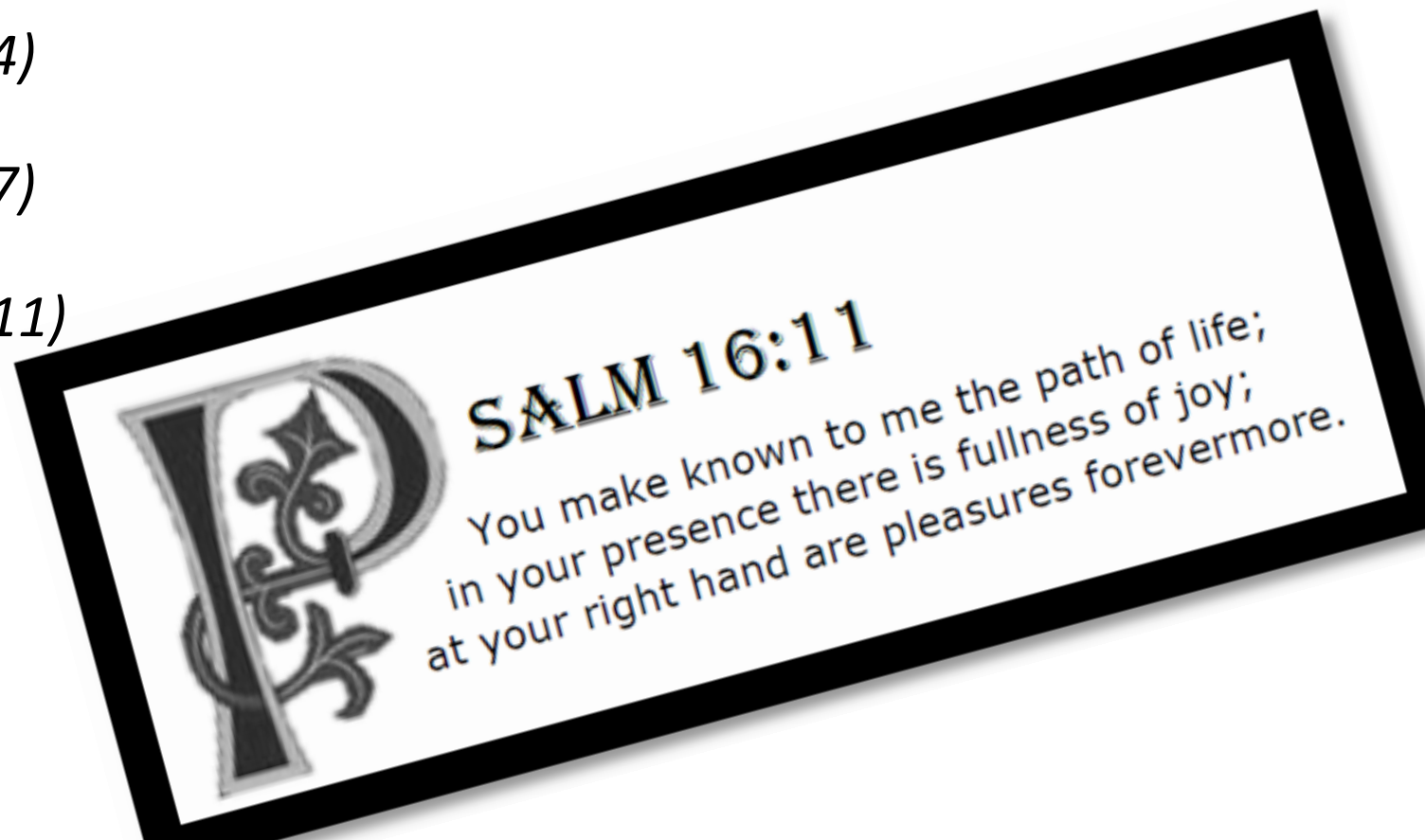
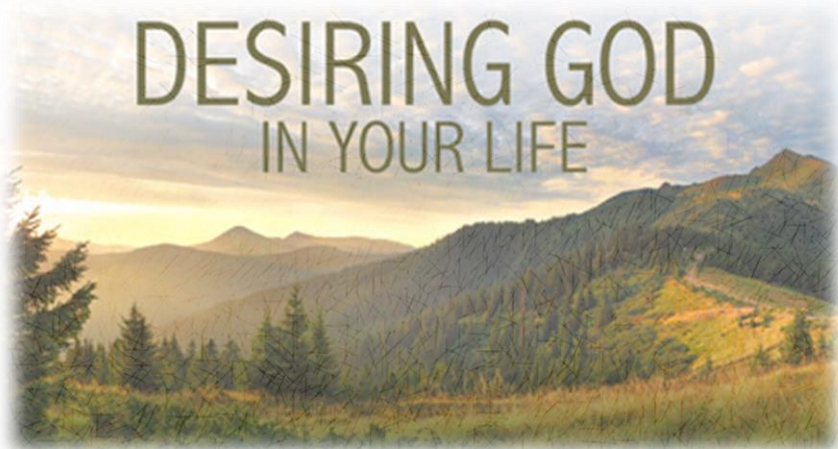


The Golden Psalm



The Sheltered Life

- A. Commitment (16:1-4)
- B. Contentment (16:5-7)
- C. Confidence (16:8-11)



“For God so loved God that He gave His only begotten Son that in so doing He might justify Himself, and bring much happiness to His glorified self.”

– John Piper 3:16

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“Redemption, salvation, and restoration are not God’s ultimate goal. These he performs for the sake of something greater: namely, the enjoyment he has in glorifying himself”

- JOHN PIPER

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GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

▶ The Foundation of His Happiness and Ours

Psalm 115:1–3 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth. Why should the nations say, “Where, now, is their God?” But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 33:10–11 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

PSALM 63

VS. 3 – Because your steadfast love is better than life...

VS. 5 – My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food...

Isaiah 46:9–10 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Daniel 4:34–35 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

OVER CALAMITY

Lamentations 2:11 *My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.*

Lamentations 3:37-38 *Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?*

OVER THE CRUCIFIXION

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 4:27-28 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Desiring God p. 37 – “People lift their hand to rebel against the Most High only to find that their rebellion is unwitting service in the wonderful designs of God. Even sin cannot frustrate the purposes of the Almighty. He himself does not commit sin, but he has decreed that there be acts which are sin – for the acts of Pilate and Herod were predestined by God’s plan”

OVER RULERS

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.


Desiring God p. 38 – “The hardened disobedience of men's hearts leads not to the frustration of God's plans, but to their fruition.”

OVER ELECTION

Romans 9:10-18

Acts 16:13–15 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE

- ▶ Everything is determined
 - ▶ Everything has purpose
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THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Desiring God p. 39 – “Many of us have gone through a period of deep struggle with the doctrine of God’s sovereignty. If we take our doctrines into our hearts where they belong, they can cause upheavals of emotion and sleepless nights. This is far better than toying with academic ideas that never touch real life. The possibility at least exists that out of the upheavals will come a new era of calm and confidence.

**Fill my mind with the knowledge of You,
that my heart may burn with a passion for You.**

IS GOD GOOD?

Psalm 45:6–7 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

Psalm 33:4–5 For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

1 John 4:16 – God is love

THE TWO LENSES –

JONATHAN EDWARDS

- ▶ The narrow lens
- ▶ The wide lens

R.C. SPROUL



~ Evil is not good... but it is good that evil is.

DESIRING GOD *p. 41*

Therefore when I say the sovereignty of God is the foundation of his happiness, I do not ignore or minimize the anger and grief God can express against evil. But neither do I infer from this wrath and sorrow that God is a frustrated God who cannot keep his creation under control. He has designed from all eternity, and is infallibly forming with every event, a magnificent mosaic of redemptive history. The contemplation of this mosaic (with both its dark and bright tiles) fills his heart with joy.

And if our Father's heart is full of deep and unshakable happiness, we may be sure that when we seek our happiness in him we will not find him "out of sorts" when we come. We will not find a frustrated, gloomy, irritable Father who wants to be left alone, but instead a Father whose heart is so full of joy it spills over onto all those who are thirsty.

WHAT MAKES GOD HAPPY?

GOD'S HAPPINESS IN HIMSELF

▶ God delights in His Glory

“My conclusion there is that God’s own glory is uppermost in his own affections. In everything he does, his purpose is to preserve and display that glory. To say his glory is uppermost in his own affections means that he puts a greater value on it than on anything else. He delights in his glory above all things.” – **Desiring God** p. 43

▶ God delights in His Son

IS GOD FOR US, OR FOR HIMSELF

ANSWERING TWO OBJECTIONS

- ▶ **Does this make God a “second-hander”?**
- ▶ **Doesn't love NOT seek its own?**

“The answer I propose is this: Because God is unique as an all –glorious, totally self-sufficient Being, he must be for himself if he is to be for us. The rules of humility that belong to a creature cannot apply in the same way to its Creator. If God should turn away from himself as the Source of infinite joy, he would cease to be God. He would deny the infinite worth of his own glory.

THE CONCLUSION:

IS GOD FOR US, OR FOR HIMSELF?

▶ Yes!

What love is this, that you gave your life for me
And made a way for me to know you
And I confess you're always enough for me you're all I need

I look to you, I see the scars upon your hands.
And hold the truth, that when I can't you always can.
And standing here beneath the shadow of the cross.
I'm overwhelmed that I keep finding open arms.

What love is this that you gave your life for me
And made a way for me to know you
And I confess, you're always enough for me
You're all I need