

The Good Life

Intro

- The Psalms: “An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul”
- The Psalms are a study of life in a fallen world *impacted by the nearness of God*.

Psalm 16

Content in God's Protection (v. 1-2, 4)

- “A sheltered life.”

“In Psalm 16 there isn't quite that on-edge air of emergency as in other psalms of David. This psalm is more restful; here he ponders what anchors him, rather than what alarms him.”
—Dale Ralph Davis, *Slogging Along in the Paths of Righteousness*, 55

- Where do you go for refuge? For a sense of safety?
- *Running* after idols brings only exhaustion—and sorrow.

Committed to God's People (v. 3)

- A good indicator of whether or not you are satisfied in God is if you enjoy being around the people of God.
- Do you love the church body—with all its variety and diversity.... and challenges?

“And by this, they will know you are Christians, by your mere toleration of one another.”
—not Jesus (Jared Wilson)

Confident in God's Plan (v. 5-10)

- Do you feel *secure*?
- David doesn't say that God won't let us experience Sheol, but that he won't *abandon* us to Sheol.

“Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.” (Acts 2:30-32)

- We have already faced the worst—and come out alive (again) in Jesus.

“I don't need to protect myself or vindicate myself. I sure don't need to hide. If the Word of God is true, then God sees me in Christ Jesus, and I have then already been executed, buried, and raised from the dead. I am safe. All my self-protection is pathetic because it obscures the most important truth I've ever known—the gospel. How can I fear death when I've already drowned in my own blood, already been spiked to a pole in the Middle East? How can I fear public humiliation when I've already been dressed up in a king costume in order to be tortured by my country's occupiers? All that has happened to me because I am in Christ. His life is my life. And not only that, but God has already proven to me what he thinks of me.”
—Russell Moore, *Tempted and Tried: Temptation and the Triumph of Christ*, 126

Complete in God's Presence (v. 11)

- *Fullness of joy.* That's what we're after: being complete.

- Pursuing God's presence...

Discussion Guide

- How do you define "The Good Life"? How has your perspective on this changed over the years?
- What are some "alternative refuges" you are tempted to turn to in times of trouble?
- In what ways are you right now enjoying the Community of God's Saints (the church)? Where are there challenges that require faith? How is God speaking to your heart in this?
- What is an area of life where it's relatively easy to see that "the boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places"? What is an area of life where you're only able to see this by faith?
- What does your pursuit of God's presence look like right now? How has it imparted *joy*?