

SECURITY SYSTEM

Tuesday, February 13

Reading: Psalm 16

Psalm 16:5 *LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.*

The FBI reports that in the U.S. a home burglary occurs every 13 seconds. That is over 2.5 million burglaries a year. Of these homes only 17% have some kind of security system. Authorities say that burglars usually avoid houses with security lighting and burglar alarms. Upgrading door locks and being friends with your neighbors also adds to the security of your property.

We all want to feel safe and secure. Psalm 16 is all about security! David begins with a plea for God to “keep me safe.” The remainder of the psalm presents three steps that are necessary if we are to feel safe in the arms of God.

First, David proclaims his commitment to God (16:1-3). God is his refuge - his place of safety and security. God is his Lord - his ever present Source of strength and direction. And God is good - everything David has was given to him by the Lord, including the friends who loved God as much as he did.

David’s commitment to God is followed by contentment (16:4-8). He will not waste his worship on idols - things that take the place of God in our lives. God is his portion. David’s choice of words takes us back to the book of Joshua. After conquering the Promised Land, each tribe of Israel was given a portion of the land as their own. Each tribe’s territory was decided by lot and boundary lines were clearly drawn. This portion of land became their inheritance to be passed down from generation to generation.

However the priestly tribe of Levi received no inheritance. God said, “I am your portion and your inheritance” (Numbers 18:20). David is claiming this same relationship with God. He realized that true security does not come from property and possessions but from knowing God and living in His presence.” He is content with God as his Portion, his Counselor, and his Defender (i.e. “at my right hand”).

Commitment and contentment leads to confidence (10:9-11). When we set our hearts on God and are satisfied in His presence, faith will be the result. David is confident that he will not be abandoned, even after death. This is one of the few Old Testament passages that talks about resurrection. After death, David knew he would have eternal joy in God’s presence.

These last verses were quoted by the apostles to prove the resurrection of Jesus (see Acts 2:25-32; 13:32-37). It is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus that we can have this confidence. Jesus said, “Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19). Is your life secure? Is your commitment, contentment, and confidence in Him?¹

¹ For further insights see: James Johnston. Psalms, Volume 1 - Psalms1-41 Preaching the Word commentary series, notes on Psalm 16