

The Path of Life

Psalm 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

As for the saints in the land,
they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god
shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad,
and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

**For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.**

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The path of life.

I remember when I was little, walking through a county park with my father. The park was so big and filled with so many trees, meadows, and different paths, that I could never figure out where to go. If I was on my own, I would surely be lost forever! But my Dad always seemed to know exactly where to go. We always came back out at exactly the right spot. I marveled.

I think it's that way with our heavenly Father, too. Only we're not walking through a county park, but something much more complex and complicated than that - *life*! And we don't always know which way to go, which way to turn, which path to take that will lead us where we need to go. But our Father knows. He always knows. And as the psalmist says, **He makes known to us the path of life.**

That path may not go where we expected or even want. Sometimes it's hard, sometimes it seems all uphill, sometimes it has so many twists and turns. And maybe even, at times, it seems like we're going in the wrong direction! I think the disciples probably thought that as they saw Jesus hanging on the cross - that's not right! That's not the right direction! But it was. It was exactly right. It was the path of life that Jesus was paving for you and me.

For did you hear what the psalmist said? **For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol** (the grave), **or let your holy one see corruption.** Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the grave, but His body would not decay like other corpses. Why not? Because He would rise from the dead! Paving the way for our resurrection on the Last Day. That we live with Him in His kingdom forever.

So while it may not seem like death is the path to life, it is! Because of Jesus. And so we can die without fear, for as the Bible often says, death is just like

sleep to the Christian. We know that when Christ awakens us, we will be with Him, set free from sin and death, and glorified.

*So where is God leading you in your life right now? What paths does He have you on? Or, have you strayed from His path, thinking it must be the wrong way, or that there must be a better way? Pray this psalm today, and pray that **the Lord would make known to you the path of life**. And then as the psalmist also said, rejoice! That you have a God who is walking with you every step of the way.*

Lord God, make known to me the path of life and help me to stay on that path and not stray from it because I think I know better. Give me strength for the uphill, confidence in the twists and turns, and the faith to know that in the end, Your path will end in eternal life, for it is the path that Jesus trod for me, to take me with Him through death to life everlasting. Amen.