



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

June 15, 2008

INCREASE (More God less me)

"Practicing His Presence"

Psalm 16

Several hundred years ago an obscure French monk (Known as Bro. Lawrence) wrote a small book that has become a Christian classic. It is called "Practicing the Presence of God". It is a manual, of sorts, for anyone who wants to learn how to walk continually in the presence of God or as Bro. Lawrence puts it to have a "continuing conversation with God."

The focus of Psalm 16 is the very same objective.

Psalm 16

Thesis Statement:

V8 "I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

- ◆ My desire for God comes and goes but His desire for me is constant. (John 4:23; Rev. 3:20)
- ◆ God is always at work in my life whether or not I see Him. (Phil. 1:6; John 5:17)
- ◆ Every aspect of my life is of immense and genuine interest to God. (Matt. 6:25-34; Ps. 55:22; John 2:1-11)
- ◆ I can learn to recognize and enjoy God's presence by living in the moment. (Gen. 28:16-17)
- ◆ When I fail to live in the moment I can start again right away because every thought can either move me closer or further away from God. (Rom. 8:5-8; Pro. 4:23; Phil.4:8)
- ◆ My life is unshakable to the degree I learn to practice the Presence of God. (Ps. 16:8; 23:4; 46:1; 91:1)

PTP of God involves making God your...

✓ Security

[1] *Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

✓ Satisfaction

[2] *I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."*

[3] *As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.*

[4] *The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.*

I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

✓ Significance

[5] *Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.*

[6] *The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.*

✓ Shrink

[7] *I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.*

PTP of God will give me...

A Glad Heart. [9a] *Therefore my heart is glad*

A Rejoicing tongue. [9b] *and my tongue rejoices;*

A Restful body. [9c] *my body also will rest secure,*

A Hope filled future.

[10] *because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.*

[11] *You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

These verses are about the Lord Jesus Christ and the hope we have in Him. (Acts 2:25-33)

June 22

"Hearing God's Voice"

Psalm 19

June 29

"Contentment"

Psalm 23

July 6

"Contemplation"

Psalm 27

July 13 (Communion)

"Confession"

Psalm 32



Growing

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1) What is the 1st thing that comes to mind when you think of the spiritual discipline of practicing the presence of God (or having a continuing conversation with God)? Read Psalm 16 and then put Psalm 16:8 in your own words.

2) How does it make you feel that God is always at work in your life (Phil. 1:6; John 5:17), every aspect of your life is important to Him (Matt. 6:25-34; Ps. 55:22; John 2:1-11) and most importantly His desire for you is constant (John 4:23; Rev. 3:20)? How would you be different if these truths were explosively alive in your life?

3) What must you do to recognize and enjoy God's presence? (Gen. 28:16-17) What role do your thoughts play in practicing God's presence? Why do you think a person is unshakable to the degree he or she is practicing God's presence? (Ps. 16:8; 23:4; 46:1; 91:1)

4) PTP of God involves making God what four things from our study? How do people try to find these four things in our world today? What did David say would be the result (v4a)?

5) What four things will PTP of God give you? What are you in most need of today? How are verses 8-11 actually referring to Jesus (Acts 2:25-33)? What is your next step in PTP of God?