

How to Pursue Pleasure in God

Sunday, September 22, 2024 • Brad Manley

I. David's Prayer of _____ 1, 2

II. David's Perspective on His _____ 3, 4

III. David's Persistent Commitment to _____ 5-9

A. David chose _____ 5

B. David chose to see _____ 6

C. David chose to follow divine _____ 7

D. David chose to put God at his _____ 8

E. David's choices resulted in _____ 9

IV. David's Pursuit of Pleasure in _____ 11

V. David's Prophetic _____ 10

Psalm 16

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

³ As for the saints in the land,
they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand,
I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad,
and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
(ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some of the good things in your life for which you are thankful?

Read & Discuss: Psalm 16

1. David (the writer) mentions many benefits he experiences from his relationship with God. List as many of these as you can. Which of these blessings can you especially appreciate from your own experience? What are some additional blessings you might add that are not mentioned here?
2. After expressing that he has “no good apart from [God]” (v. 1), David goes on to say that “all [his] delight” is in other “saints” (v. 2). How can we delight in other believers in such a way that God is foremost honored or praised? What are some ways you delight in other believers?
3. According to verse 4, David is determined to not worship false gods. What are some false gods we contend with? To aid in his battle, what does David acknowledge about these gods? What additional reasons would you add that are helpful to remember as we engage in this spiritual battle?
4. In verse 6, what does David imply to be true of God and of his own circumstances? Is what David says here something we should always be able to say about our situation? Why or why not? (If it is something we should always be able to say, what will help us to say this even when life is difficult?)
5. When David says he has “set the Lord always before me” (v. 8), what do you think he meant? How might he have done this? How do you go about doing this? In verses 8b-9, what is the result of David setting the Lord before him? How do you experience these things in your own life?
6. Both Peter and Paul quote this psalm in the book of Acts (2:25-28; 13:35). As you look at the larger context of these passages, how would you summarize their reasoning with regard to verse 10 of this psalm? Why was this an important point for them to make? Given that David wrote this almost 1,000 years before Christ, how does this encourage your confidence in the inspiration of Scripture?

Apply: In a sentence, how would you summarize David’s point in this psalm? What’s one thing you can do this week to better cultivate the attitude that David expresses here?

Pray: Pray that we will be people who daily set the Lord before us and then seek His face, following in His path and forsaking all other gods.