

# Genuine Joy

*Psalm 16*

*Dr. Edwin P. Elliott*

## *I. Grace Is Sufficient for Believers*

**A. The psalmist entrusted himself and his hopes to God; such confidence distinguishes believers.** *"Michtam of David. Preserve me, O God: for **in thee do I put my trust.**" (PSALM 16:1) "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: **for the LORD preserveth the faithful,** and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer." (PSALM 31:23) [see John 17:1-26]*

**B. Ultimately God dominates the relationship He has with a believer; God providentially takes care of His people.** *"O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, **Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;**" (PSALM 16:2)*

**1. People have nothing to give God.** *"**Can a man be profitable unto God,** as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself? **Is it** any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or **is it** gain **to him,** that thou makest thy ways perfect?" (JOB 22:2-3)*

**2. Even if people did have something to give God, He would not ask for it.** *"For **every beast of the forest is mine,** and the cattle upon a thousand hills." (PSALM 50:10)*

*"**If I were hungry, I would not tell thee:** for the world **is** mine, and the fulness thereof." (PSALM 50:12)*

**3. Jesus incorporated the psalmist's doctrine into a parable.** *"So likewise ye, **when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded** you, say, We are unprofitable servants: **we have done that which was our duty** to do." (LUKE 17:10)*

**C. Affection for other saints redeemed by God becomes inevitable when reflecting on grace.** *"**But to the saints** that **are** in the earth, and **to** the excellent, **in***

*whom is all my delight.*" (PSALM 16:3) "For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work** and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, **in that ye have ministered to the saints**, and do minister." (HEBREWS 6:10)

**D. In contrast, people who turn to other gods can expect multiplying disasters.** "***Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god:*** their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips." (PSALM 16:4)

**E. Everything works out to the best for God's people.** "The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: ***thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;*** yea, I have a goodly heritage." (PSALM 16:5-6)

## ***II. Assurance Transforms into Joy***

**A. The psalmist praised God for the direction he received, particularly in the shadows of life.** "***I will bless the LORD,*** who hath given me counsel: ***my reins also instruct me in the night*** seasons." (PSALM 16:7)

**B. God provides stability and is the context for interpreting life.** "I have set the LORD always before me: ***because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.***" (PSALM 16:8)

**C. Providence yields hope as God enables believers to glorify and enjoy Him forever.** "Therefore ***my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:*** my flesh also shall rest in hope." (PSALM 16:9)

**D. A believer knows that life will not end in the grave.** "For ***thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;*** neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (PSALM 16:10)

E. In God's presence, the good times will never end. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: *in thy presence is fulness of joy*; at thy right hand *there are pleasures for evermore*." (PSALM 16:11)

### **III. Ultimately the Psalmist Is the Messiah**

A. Peter interprets the psalm; this is the story of the Saviour. "For *David speaketh concerning him*, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. *Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance*." (ACTS 2:25-28)

B. Paul identified this psalm as a prediction of Christ's resurrection. "Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, *Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption*." (ACTS 13:35)

C. The substitutionary atonement and the resurrection are at the heart of the Christian Message. "Moreover, brethren, *I declare unto you the gospel which I preached* unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*:" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4)

D. Through Christ all believers will eventually be resurrected and enter a new and perfect world. "But now is *Christ risen from the dead*, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For *as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*. But every man in his own order: *Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming*." (1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23)

Bulletins is a product of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, - Rev. Dr. Edwin Elliott, Jr Pastor  
[www.rpchurch.org](http://www.rpchurch.org) Email: [Pastor@rpchurch.org](mailto:Pastor@rpchurch.org)