

Not Out of Feigned Lips

Psalms 16:1 – 17:1

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~ At the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, and also on the Day of Pentecost, there were mockers, skeptics, and Jewish bystanders who sought an explanation of the earth-shaking events unfolding before their eyes. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter did just that; and presented much evidence of the resurrection and ascension of Christ Jesus. Peter quoted Psalm sixteen that day to validate his claims – and that’s where our Spiritual Safari will begin in this report. Before we begin here, though, we need to take another look at the subject of our previous several reports, specifically, Psalms nine through fifteen, where we examined the root of the rebellion against God; and we need to say a few words concerning those truths to catch us up before commencing this report.

Genesis 3: 3 *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die ~*

The total depravity of mankind is a doctrine that is difficult to accept, friends. It is so malignant and repulsive for us to think of ourselves in that condition that we naturally resist any consideration of this truth; thereby, the Word of God is unwittingly rejected. Most people part ways with the Scriptural Christ at this point. We like to think of the criminal minds and the abnormal person who is in willful disobedience to God as the ones who are the objective cases for such teachings; and those who claim they are no longer sinners after they have been saved always think of the depraved man as someone else — someone who doesn’t belong to their crowd. We never think of ourselves as the villains – it’s always the other person. We like to see ourselves as the good guys; but we have closely observed this undeniably sound doctrine under the Spiritual Safari electron microscope for the last several reports — and have discovered otherwise. If you have not read those reports, I suggest you go back and do so now.

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What we have been considering is God's estimate of mankind – and that means *ALL* men have gone astray, and there is *NONE* that doeth good. If the popular philosophy of the world that says we are inherently good were true, then the human race would be able to cure our problems. That would mean a splint of sociology could fix everything. If modern society is only suffering from a slight cough, and not lung cancer, then an alcohol remedy is all we need to heal ourselves! Well, my friends, the Bible presents no such shallow picture of humanity. God says *ALL* mouths are open sepulchers, and *ALL* mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. God asks the question: *"the heart is desperately wicked; who can know it?"* Don't foolishly deceive yourself by declaring you know even your own heart.

Matthew 15: 18 *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man ~*

Galatians 5: 17 *For the flesh warreth against the Spirit, and the Spirit warreth against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God ~*

You and I have an incurable and vile old nature! These passages represent God's viewpoint of existential mankind, friends. The old nature is beyond the panacea of redemption. God has no plans to reform our old nature. Man can no sooner cure his inherent ills than he can sweeten a pile of dog manure by pouring a gallon of Chanel No. 5 perfume on it. I do not know what the heart of a villain is, but I do know the heart of a righteous man – and it is frightful. Man became a sinful and corrupt entity a long time ago in the Garden of Eden. Man is the creation of a benign deity; and man is different from the animals beneath him, and from many of the created intelligences above him. Man is able to make a choice for himself of good

or evil. If that were not true, then the Bible is irrelevant and farcical. But it is true. If evil is only a *potential* in some people, then disobedience to the expressed will of God is meaningless. If you believe that, then you just don't know God, and are totally and completely ignorant of truth and wisdom.

God zeroed in on one lone tree when instructing Adam and Eve. The fruit that man was forbidden to eat of wasn't poison – it was *GOOD*! There were any number of other trees to which man had access, and the test was not difficult. It was a simple matter of obedience to God. Satan's suggestion turned Eve's attention *ONLY* to *this* particular tree. That failure became an international crisis, too, by the way; it brought down the entire world upon mankind who would no longer live on an earth he controlled and accommodated. The work of recovering man, and turning defeat into victory, was God's work – not ours. The skins God used to replace the fig leaves covering Adam and Eve came from animals that had been brutally slain. The blood of those animals was placed at the way of life; and that was the first Mercy Seat this world ever knew anything about.

Genesis 3: 24 *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life ~*

God did these things to keep the way of the tree of life *open*! Remember, Moses placed a Mercy Seat on the top of the Ark, too. God always marks the way back to Himself; from the little lamb of Abel to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The history of man and the record of our old nature isn't pretty, my beloved. Every member of the human race is in possession of a continuing record of failure and disappointment brought by our old nature. You can misquote the Bible until you fall over dead; but if you think you have reached sinless perfection, then you are only deceiving yourself, and the truth is not in you. *ALL* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Gerde, the outstanding German philosopher wrote: “.... *I see no sin in the world that I myself might have committed.*”

The most absurd fallacy of the human race is the notion that man can construct a utopian Shangri-La – or a Kingdom of Heaven – here on this earth. That's liberal thinking and it reveals they have no faith in Jesus. Jesus

said He was going to prepare a place for us, and that He will return and take us there to be with Him. He never said, “.... Build a kingdom.” Only fools are trying to make a “*Kingdom*” here on earth. Russia, Cuba, China, Japan, San Salvador, the Middle East, and every country in Europe from Rome, Italy, to Paris, France have all tried building a “Christian kingdom” — whatever that is — and all have failed miserably. The United States of America is now embracing a peanut theology that says we’re no longer sinners after we are saved. It is a lie straight from the pits of hell. Those are, likewise, the philosophies of the man without a cause.

An infallible society cannot be achieved by fallible man; because that would be impossible. Even under ideal conditions, that will not happen down here. It is absolutely non-sequitur to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God to proclaim we can correct our problems. Poems may be written by men like you and me, but we cannot make a tree — and only God Himself can hold together a decent society. The condition of the old nature of man is so dire, and so far beyond redemption, that God has no plan or program to renovate that nature. The soul that sinneth it shall die.

If we could somehow attain sinless perfection, or even a place where we no longer sinned, then our flesh would live forever. Friends, it simply doesn’t align with sound Scriptural doctrine — not to mention reality — to erroneously believe we are sinless. God’s plan and purpose is to give us a new nature; we must be born again. Even so, the old nature is never removed from our flesh. God leaves our old nature intact to keep man humble and constantly remind us of right and wrong; and that we are sinners who need a Savior — a sinner saved by grace! That’s the way of truth; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it — or not....

XVJ ~ (Michtam of David)

1 Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.

2 O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;

3 But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.

4 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.

5 The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

6 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

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

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

~ This magnificent Psalm speaks of the life of Christ, the death of Christ, His resurrection — and ascension. It is the third Messianic Psalm we have encountered so far. In Psalm chapter two, we saw the rejection of the King; but we also saw God's final purpose and plan to place Him on the Throne of Righteousness revealed. That looks forward to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Psalm chapter eight, we were shown the humanity in the incarnation of the Lord presented.

Psalm sixteen is quoted in the New Testament in three different places: This is Simon Peter's text on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two – and we're going to talk about that in this report. Paul also quotes this Psalm in Antioch of Pisidia in what is possibly the greatest sermon he ever preached. It is also quoted in Hebrews chapter two verse thirteen – and it is quoted in reference to Christ every time! I have entitled Psalm sixteen the "*Golden Jewel of David*" because it looks forward to One Who is coming in his lineage; and of Whom David could say, "*.... this is of all my salvation.*"

Psalm sixteen reveals the voice of Christ as He says, "*I have come to do My Father's will.*" Jesus was completely and totally committed to the will of our Father in Heaven. Jesus purposefully took the place of subjection down here when He assumed our humanity. Jesus didn't have to take that place; but I have to take that place – and so do you. That means we need to recognize what man really is: totally depraved. See, little puny pygmy man becomes proud and tries to lift himself up; which leads to men who hold high power in politics, science, and education – and even some pastors and ministers – all attempting to usurp the proper place of God! Well, man is a small potato here on earth; we don't amount to much. Only when we obtain a correct self-realization will we be able to rejoice in what God is going to do with us, and for us, in Heaven someday.

This is quite a picture of Christ. It was a picture of David, too. I hope it is a picture of you – and me – today, also. David told the Lord he placed his trust in Him. I think God wants to hear that from more of us more often. When is the last time you told Him that? Don't be like the crowd who is going to say in that day, "*.... Lord, Lord, we performed mighty works in Your Name!*" And Jesus is going to answer them, "*I never even knew you.*" When I call my Heavenly Father "*God*" I mean it, friends. When I fall down and worship Jesus as my Savior, there is no pretense in my heart – you can write that down.

Christ is Lord to His saints down here in the earth; but that doesn't extend to everyone. Verse four makes that abundantly clear. The word "*god*" in verse four is in italics in the best manuscripts – which means it is omitted from the text – so, some people just go after another whatever! That could mean many different things that those people think is their God! The pagan

had myriad constructs they called gods. In David's day, it was Dagon for the outside world, and Baal for the children of Israel. What is your creed, friends? Some say they have no creed; but that is their creed – that they have no creed. I have to laugh at that truth. You have a creed even if you say you have no creed. Some people say, “.... *I have no creed but Christ.*” Or, they say, “.... *all I need is Jesus.*” Or, they may say, “.... *Jesus is the answer.*” Well, those are oversimplifications that don't quite tell the whole truth — and they also evaporate into nothing in the end. We need to learn how to say just a bit more than that.

Jesus came into this world and walked an earth over-run with sorrow and sin. Jesus was a Perfect Stranger while He was here on earth. David rejoiced in Jehovah, and there was peace and joy in his life as a result. The Lord was the portion of his inheritance; the Lord was also the portion of His cup. See, our inheritance is what is ours, but our cup is that which we appropriate. That might be difficult to understand, but it is something you need to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment about. If you have a plate full of food, but do not eat it all, then you have only appropriated a certain portion. Some people eat all their food, but some do not.

There are many people in this world to whom God has blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavenlies. Unfortunately, they don't always enjoy those blessings. Their cup never runs over. Most people mistake material possessions down here as blessings – but those things are *NEVER* blessings. In fact, material belongings are *ALWAYS* a burden. God wants us to enjoy life with exceedingly full joy; but that can only ever happen when we know the Lord Jesus Christ properly, correctly and completely. Jesus came to this earth and died for our sins so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Frankly, most people *NEVER* experience the fullness of joy *ALL* the time as they should.

When David had sleepless nights, he thought of the Lord. Verses eight through ten is quoted in the New Testament and it refers to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. In Acts chapter two, beginning at verse twenty-five, Peter said, “.... *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. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.”

From where Simon Peter stood preaching that day, he could point right to the place King David was buried. David was buried there; but this refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. We know this very definitely because Simon Peter continued and said, “.... *therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*”

Liberal expositors always purport this has no reference to the resurrection. Well, Simon Peter witnessed several thousand souls turn to Christ and be saved this day – which brought about a revolution in the Roman Empire. Interestingly, *NO ONE* is coming to the Lord through the liberals teaching ministry today, friends. That’s something else you can just write down. They touch the heart of absolutely *NO ONE* and they don’t do *ANYTHING* for God. That’s the test; and I’ll take Simon Peter’s word that this Psalm refers to the resurrection of Christ Jesus. See, Peter isn’t finished yet and he says, “.... *for David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*”

The only way one can miss this point is if you *WANT* to miss it, my beloved. Paul also says, in Acts chapter thirteen, “.... *wherefore he saith also in another Psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*” If that doesn’t make this clear to you, then you simply cannot — or will not —

learn and accept what you are reading. Verse eight is the pathway Christ followed down here; and it is the same pathway I want to follow. Verse nine brings us the death of Christ upon the cross. Jesus knew God was going to raise Him from the dead.

So, what about you, my friends; do you *KNOW* God is going to raise you from the dead? Verse ten brings us the resurrection and verse eleven the ascension of Christ into Heaven, unto the right hand of God Himself. That's where Jesus is today; our Holy High Priest Who forever makes intercession for us. This is a fulfilled prophecy of the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! What a glorious, wonderful Messianic Psalm this really is. I wish we could spend more time here, but we must move along now....

XDDD ~ (A Prayer of David)

1 Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God beginning another cluster of Psalms that belong together; and this runs through Psalm twenty-four. These all belong together — similar to a hymnal that groups clusters of songs together in themed sections. This Psalm songbook is arranged that way. In each of the next nine Psalms, we're going to find Christ in Prophecy. The remnant of the nation Israel in the end times will be blended together with those prophecies – and the greatest of these Psalms, by far, will be the twenty-second Psalm. In Psalm twenty-two, we'll take an x-ray of the cross – and it will be *MOST* dramatic.

In this seventeenth Psalm, we have a prayer of David. As always, the question is: *WHEN* did David write this Psalm? Well, that's what we will discover in our next report, and we will also listen to David's prayer; which is a prayer that is very appropriate for us today. I hope you can continue to read these reports that have been written specifically for *YOU*, my beloved friend ~

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