

## Only Christ Psalm 16

### Introduction:

1. Have you ever been very eager to see somebody and then you get the terrible news, "He is not here."?  
**Illustration:** waiting for that loved one to step off that plane
2. 2,000 years ago, at Jesus Christ's tomb outside of Jerusalem, a group of ladies heard that exact phrase, "*He is not here.*" Although they didn't realize it at the time, this was some of the best news they could have ever gotten.
3. Jesus declared Himself to be the Savior of the world, but a dead Savior can't save anybody. In order to have the power to save us from our sins and give us life, Christ had to conquer death, and that is exactly what He did. **Acts 1:3**
4. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is a recorded historical fact. If you went into a court of law and used the laws of authenticity that they use to prove that events happened and applied those laws to the resurrection, it would prove undeniably the reality of it.
  - In fact, there is more historically verifiable evidence that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose from the dead than exists to prove that Julius Caesar ever lived.
5. Did you know that Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament? Psalm 16 is one example of this. Although David was used to pen this psalm, it is actually a prophetic psalm that speaks of Christ. vs. 9-10
  - Peter affirmed this - **Acts 2:25-32**
  - Paul affirmed this - **Acts 13:34-37**
6. Christ's soul (his inner man) would not be left in the place called "hell." That was the place where all disembodied souls went until resurrection day. There were two compartments - one was for the saved and described as paradise, the other side for unbelievers; Christ described it as a place of fire and torment.
7. Christ's body would not be allowed to stay in the tomb and corrupt and decay.
8. Christ would rise (body, soul, and spirit) from the dead, show Himself alive for 40 days, and then ascend to the right hand of the Father in heaven.
9. So what does all this mean to you and me? The next verse in this psalm tells us clearly.

### Only Christ can show the path of life.

1. Jesus made a very bold statement when He walked the earth (**John 11:25-26**). Dead people can't keep a promise like this.
2. He demonstrated the reality of His claim by dying for our sins on the cross and then three days later rising from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**
3. **John 14:6** - Christ said "I am **the** life and you have no hope of eternal life in heaven apart from me." And He was right! How do we know? He is the only one to die and then rise from the dead. Death couldn't keep Him. It couldn't hold Him down. He is **the** life.
4. Christ alone can show the path of life. He pioneered that path first through His resurrection. He proved that He Himself **is** the path. He **is** life. It can be found nowhere else. That is good news because 100% of all people die.

5. Not only this - God's Word declares that there is also a second death that happens to our inner man (our soul and spirit). **Revelation 20:14-15**
  - The body dies, but when the soul and spirit are separated from Christ (who is life), this is called the second death. How would a person be found in that book of life?
6. Remember, who is life? Where do you have to go to get life? **Romans 6:23**
7. The moment you trust Christ as your Savior, you receive His very life by faith!  
**Galatians 2:20**

### **Only Christ can bring fullness of joy.**

1. There are so many people struggling just to get through life. They think, "If this or that would happen in my life, I would be happy."
2. The word "happy" is, in fact, associated with the word "happenings." **Happiness** is dependent on the **outward circumstances of life** (when I have plenty of money, when I have what I want, when people are nice to me, etc).
3. **Joy**, on the other hand, comes from within. It is derived from the **inward presence of life**. It can only spring forth from life.
4. What does the resurrection of Christ mean? **Psalm 16:11** states, "...in thy presence is fulness of joy..." Wherever Christ's presence is, there is joy. Why? Because there is life! There is life in Him.  
**Illustration: Luke 1:44** - the presence of Christ's life in Mary brought joy to John in Elizabeth
5. Here is the good news: When you believe on Christ and trust Him to be your Savior, His Spirit, His presence, His life, comes to live and dwell **in you**.  
**Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27; Romans 8:10-11**
  - The resurrection life that He demonstrated and possesses is imparted to you!
6. This means that you now can have a constant joy that Jesus said no man can take from you. **John 16:22, 15:11**

### **Only Christ can give pleasures forevermore.**

1. "Pleasures" - "delightful, sweet"
2. David says about God, "...at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."
3. Who is at the right hand of the Father in heaven? None other than the risen One - Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:34**
4. In Christ are found pleasures for evermore.
  - "For evermore" simply means "continually, never ending."
5. People in this world today are looking for pleasures, but they are looking in all the wrong places. They look to things that bring temporary pleasure, but it leads to guilt, bondage, addiction, destruction, condemnation, the hurting of others, etc.  
**2 Thessalonians 2:12**
6. **Hebrews 11:25** teaches that the enjoyment and the pleasures of sin are only for a season (temporary). They are fleeting; they simply don't last.
7. In Christ are found pleasures that are eternal, lasting, and true. When your delight is found in your relationship with Christ, you have found real life.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Do you have a relationship with the risen Savior, Jesus Christ? Have you ever trusted Him and received Him into your heart and life? Don't you think it's time?
2. Christ's body never saw corruption. He is risen. He is alive. He wants to give you this same resurrection life. It means not only eternal life in heaven, but it means that you can possess genuine joy, and real pleasure in this life.
3. You may have asked, "Where can I find real life?" There's only one place - it is found in Christ!