

Today, we will have our 4th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Our message is from Psalm 16. /The saints on this earth are excellent people. /David says the believer has every kind of joy.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

/God is David’s only blessing. /He prays that God would protect him. /This is a poem by David. /We believers also pray to God. /We say, “LORD, you are my LORD, and there is no other blessing apart from you.” / “If you do not help us, no one can.

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

/The saints in the land are excellent people. /They are believers whom God has saved through the blood of Jesus Christ. /He purchased his people by paying the price with the blood of Jesus Christ. /God says his delight is in the saints.

/God’s love is flowing down to his people. /His love is like a waterfall to his believers. /God’s works of life are within the believer.

/Matthew 18:20 says / “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.” /We must be people with whom God finds his delight. /But what happens when people follow other gods?

/Verse 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.

/What happens when people run after others gods who are not God? /Their sorrows will multiply. /There are offerings that are given by pouring blood. /It is an offering that is poured. /A drink offering is one that is offered by pouring wine.

/When people serve false gods, they offer blood sacrifices. /The Bible says, “I will not participate in their sacrifices or offerings.” / “I will not take their names on my lips.” /Today, what are our idols? /Our idols are things that we love more than we love God.

/They are things we trust in more than we trust in God. /We let those things govern our lives rather than having God govern our lives. /We call these things our spiritual idols. /Do we believers have any idols? /Are there things you love more than you love God?

/Some believers love money more than they love God. /Some love their children more. /Some people are more afraid of their workplace bosses than they are afraid of God. /Because of these idols, we cannot live according to God’s word.

/Because of these idols, we cannot obey the words of the Bible. /These are the spiritual idols of today's world. /When we chase after idols instead of the word, there is something that we gain. /That is the sacrifice of idols.

/Thieves usually steal things at night. /Then, out of the guilt of their conscience, they offer tithes to God. /For example, a woman may have earned a lot of money by selling her body. /And she gives an offering of thanks to God.

/Will God delight in these offerings? /Can a believer who has disobeyed the word of God stand in the presence of God? /The verse says, "I will not take part in their offerings." / "Help me so that I will not call on the names of their idols." /He prays, "Help me to love nothing other than you, God."

/Verses 5-6. /The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

/God is our only inheritance. /God is our chosen portion and our cup. /The lines have fallen for us in pleasant places. /Whatever God gives us is beautiful.

/There is a place that God has chosen for us. /Where is this place? /It is God's world. /It is the world of truth. /The world of truth is not oppressive. /There is freedom in this place. / There is no burden.

/Where the spirit of the LORD is there is freedom. /God's realm is the realm of freedom. /If the believer flees from God, he will become a slave. /It is a world of condemnation and slavery.

/Verses 7-8. /I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

/I praise the LORD who gives me counsel. /God is a God who teaches us. /He is a God who guides us. /Psalm 23 says, / "Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." /God guides us in our lives.

/He guides us with the word of truth. /It says, "In the night also my heart instructs me." / When we pray, God rebukes us. /When we meditate on the Word, he rebukes us.

/During our time of prayer, God may rebuke us for something we had not thought about. / It may be something we did or said during our period of low faith. /He lets us remember our foolish deeds.

/We remember our sins. /He makes us repent. /Every night, he instructs us through our hearts. /This is the God I am serving. /He is at my right hand. /For this reason, we are not shaken. /We who serve God are never shaken. /Therefore, we have joy.

/Verses 9-11. /Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

/There are believers who serve God. /God stands at our right hand and he helps us. /This believer's heart is glad and he rejoices in this glory. /His flesh dwells secure.

/God does not abandon my soul to Sheol. /Sheol can be understood as the grave. /It can also be hell. /Furthermore, it can mean a world of darkness. /In Revelation, it says Sheol is an abyss. /Sheol is a dark, frightening place.

/God does not abandon our soul to places like Sheol. /He does not let his holy ones see corruption. /By this, the verse is predicting Jesus Christ's coming and resurrection.

/God makes known to us the path of life. /In God, there is the path of life. /What happens when we abandon God? /We walk down a path of death. /It is a cursed path. /Are you walking along the path of life?

/God shows this path to us. /In the presence of God, there is abundant joy. /In the right hand of God, there is eternal pleasure. /We need to rejoice in God and be glad in him.

/Now we will study Psalm 17. /God is our eternal refuge.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right!

/David cried out to God. /David, who cried out to God, had lips that were free of deceit. /When we pray, we must pray sincerely. /When we innocently pray, we are praying properly.

/If a child wants something from his father, does he have to speak eloquently in order for the father to understand? /God already knows the condition which we are in. /He already knows our requests.

/We need to sincerely pray to God. /Then, God listens to us. /Who defends us? /God is the one who defends us. /He judges us according to his justice. /He judges us according to the grace of redemption through Jesus Christ.

/Verses 3-5. /You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress. With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

/God tries my heart. /He visits me by night. /But there is nothing to find. /I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress. /David did all that he could to live a holy life.

/We must not sin with our mouths. /Mark 7:21. /It says, “For from within, out of the heart of man,” a person speaks. /From the heart comes evil thoughts, /sexual immorality, theft, /murder, adultery, /greed, malice, /deceit, lewdness, /arrogance, and folly.

/James 3:2 says this. /We all stumble in many ways. /If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man. /David says, “By the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.”

/If we stand on the words of God, God will protect us. /Then our feet will not slip. /Where do we stand right now? If we are standing in truth, we will not be shaken.

/Verses 6-9. /I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.

/David trusts in God’s protection as he is praying. /He prays that God inclines his ear to David. /David is seeking refuge. /God is our only refuge.

/ “Save us with your right hand.” / “Show us your steadfast love.” / “Keep me as the apple of your eye.” / “hide me in the shadow of your wings.” / “There are those who do me violence.” / “Hold me and save me from the enemies who are after my life.” David prayed these things.

/Verses 10-12. /They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground. He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush.

/Who are the wicked people? /They are those who close their hearts to pity. /They are worldly, materialistic people. /With their mouths, they speak arrogantly. /They are proud people. /They surround our steps and set their eyes on us.

/They try to cast us to the ground. /They run towards us like a lion ripping its prey apart. / They lurk in secret as they wait to ambush us.

/1 Peter 5:8 says, / “Be sober-minded; be watchful. /Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” /The devil roams around looking for someone to devour. /He tries in every opportunity to hurt us chosen people.

/Verses 13-15. /Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied

with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

/David prays to God, asking God to subdue the wicked ones. /They try to take my life away with their swords. /They act with violence and force. /In this way, the church and its believers suffer in the world.

/The wicked live abundant lives. /They are receiving their portion on this earth. /Their wealth fills their stomachs. /Their children also prosper. /They leave a large inheritance for their children as they live in luxury.

/We must be careful to not lose our footing when we see the wicked prosper. /Where do our wishes and satisfaction lie?

/Verse 15 tells us the answer. /I shall behold your face in righteousness. /First, the believer must act righteously. /What is righteousness? /Righteousness is doing what gives God joy. /It is doing the right thing.

/Second, it is looking to the face of God. /Third, it is being satisfied in God alone. /The verse says, “When I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness. /2 Corinthians 5:2 says, / “For in this tent we groan, /longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.” /

/We will now study Psalm 18. /When David, in his suffering, prayed to God, the LORD answered his prayers.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

/David says, “O LORD, my strength.” /I love you, my God. /God is my rock. /God is my fortress. /God is my deliverer. /God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

/God protects us with his powerful hand. /Psalm 17:7. /God is our shield. /He is the horn of our salvation. / “Horn” symbolizes power and strength.

/God is our power and he is our authority. /He is our refuge. /Therefore, we must pray to God and trust in him. /Sometimes, the cords of death encompass us.

/Verses 4-6. /The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

/There are times when the cords of death seem to wrap around us. /Sometimes, destruction and torrents assail us. /It may seem like the cords of death are entangling us. /The snares and nets seem to attack us.

/In the midst of all of this, the believer prays to God. /When we are in trouble, we pray to God. /We need to cry out to him. /In his temple, he hears our voices.

/I cried to God, and my cry reached him. /It means that my voice echoed in God's ears. /Then should we pray in a loud voice? /Doing so is a good idea.

/However, we need to take into consideration the other believers who are sitting next to us in the church. /If we pray loudly, it may be difficult to pray for a long time. /Praying quietly is also a good habit. /It is important that we take a large portion of our time to pray.

/Pray for one or two hours a day. /Anyone who teaches the word must pray for at least two hours. /Anyone who works in the church must pray for at least one hour. /We need time to cry out to God.

/Verses 7-12. /Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him, thick clouds dark with water. Out of the brightness before him hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

/God is a God of wrath. /He is a God who destroys enemies. /The earth quakes and the foundations of the mountains tremble. /Smoke comes up from his nostrils. /From his mouth, fire comes out.

/Jeremiah 5:14 says that God's word becomes a fire. /In verse 8, flames come out of his mouth. /In verse 9, God bows the heavens and comes down. /In verse 10, God rides a cherub and flies. /He comes on the wings of the wind.

/Is there anyone who can avoid God's judgment? /Who does God search for when he comes down? /He is a God who judges the enemy. /Verse 12 says out of God's brightness, hailstones and coals of fire break through his clouds. /He also spoke.

/Verses 13-15. /The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire. And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

/God thunders in the heavens and comes down as he utters his voice. /Hailstones and lightning pour down onto the earth. /God sends his arrows and scatters them. /What are God's arrows? /Here, he flashes lightning and confuses them.

/Their forces become confused. /Their politics are put into confusion. /Their nation is also confused. /What happened to these historically powerful nations? /What happened to their great kingship and their great empire?

/In verse 15, the foundations of the world lay bare at God's rebuke and at the blast of the breath of God's nostrils. /The foundations of the earth were revealed. /All of their evil and all of their sins will be revealed. /But what does God do with his people and his church?

/Verses 16-19. /He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

/God reaches out from his high place and grabs hold of us. /He draws me out of many waters. /He rescues me from the enemy and from those who hate me.

/God is a powerful God. /Who is more powerful than God? /Disaster may have struck, /but God is my protector. /He guides me to a broad place. /Where is this broad place? /It means that God opens the way for things to go well.

/Verses 20-24. /The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his rules were before me, and his statutes I did not put away from me. I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt. So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

/We need to be blameless. /We need to live cleanly by following the ways of God's righteousness. /We need to keep the ways of the LORD. /What are the ways of God? /It is obeying God's word.

/If we do not obey the word of God, how can we walk the way of God? /Verse 22 says all his rules were before me. /Also, David did not put God's statutes away from him. /In verse 23, David kept himself blameless before God. /It means that he fears God with all of his heart.

/We need to protect ourselves from sin. /Hebrews 12:4 says /we must resist sin to the point of shedding our blood. /Verse 24 says God rewards David according to David's righteousness. /God rewards David according to David's cleanness.

/Verses 25-30. /With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; with the purified you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down. For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness. For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

/God shows himself merciful to those people who are merciful. /God shows himself blameless to those who are blameless. /He shows himself pure to those who are pure. /Matthew 5:8 says, / “Blessed are the pure in heart, /for they shall see God.”

/To those who are mistaken, God reveals his wrath. /God saves those who seek God. /However, he humbles the proud. /In verse 28, God is a God who lights our lamp. /He called us the light of the world.

/In this dark world, God shines his light. /The believer will not fall into traps. /The believer will not fall into a pit. /Verse 29 says those who trust in God can leap over a wall. /I hope that all of you will leap over the wall.

/Verse 30 says God’s way is perfect. /Nothing is lacking in that place. /His word is pure. /To those who take refuge in him, God is a shield. /People wander around looking for something that will be their shield.

/Some people use their possessions as a shield. /Others use their fame or authority as their shield. /Then again other people trust in some kind of force. /We need to accept God as our shield.

/Verses 31-35. /For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?—the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great.

/Can there be any other God than our God? /Besides God, there is no other rock. /Verse 32 says God makes our way blameless. /He gives me power. /Philippians 4:13 says, / “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

/We are believers who dwell in the truth. /We are believers who rejoice in God. /We are believers who trust in God. /Verse 33 says he makes my feet like the feet of a deer. /He secures us on the heights.

/God gives us weapons, /and he is our shield, /for he lifts me up. /We need to be people who live strongly in the word of God.

/Verses 36-42. /You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip. I pursued my enemies and overtook them, and did not turn back till they were consumed. I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise; they fell under my feet. For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me. You made my enemies turn their backs to me, and those who hated me I destroyed. They cried for help, but there was none to save; they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them. I beat them fine as dust before the wind; I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

/God scatters all of our enemies. /He holds our feet in place. /Verse 38 says the LORD destroys all our enemies, /for they fall under our feet. /Verse 39 says God makes our enemies surrender to us.

/Every enemy runs away. /Verse 41 says they cried for help, but no one was there to save them. /God did not respond to their cries. /Verse 42 says they disappear as dust before the wind.

/God casts them out like the mud in the streets. /Everyone who is wicked or is our enemy has lost their value. /The believer may appear to be weak, but he is in fact strong.

/Verses 43-45. /You delivered me from strife with the people; you made me the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me; foreigners came cringing to me. Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses.

/What kind of believer does God save? /God saves those who listen to his word and obey his word. /Verse 44 says, “As soon as they heard me they obeyed me.” / “Foreigners came cringing to me.”

/God lifts up those who serve God. /Deuteronomy 28:1 says /If you diligently obey the LORD your God, /being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, /the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.”

/Verses 46-48. /The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation— the God who gave me vengeance and subdued peoples under me, who delivered me from my enemies; yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me; you rescued me from the man of violence.

/God is a living God. /He is the eternal God. /He is the God who saves us. /He destroys all of our enemies and those who stand against us. /He exalts us above those who stand against us. /Psalm 23:5 says /God prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

/Verse 49-50. /For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name. Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

/We praise this God, the God of our salvation. /We praise the name of the LORD. /God gives us salvation, /a salvation that is great.

/He shows his steadfast love to his anointed. /Here, the verse prophesies of the coming of the Christ.

/It says, “To David and his offspring forever.” / “His offspring” is talking about Jesus Christ. /God shows this grace to us today.

/This concludes our 4th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Thank you.