

"Christ Our Only Joy" (Psalm 16)

Children's Sermon:

- Seen or read "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis?
- Tame lion? He is NOT safe, but he IS good.... Don't worry, we'll see Him again.
- Jesus appears completely safe and tame in the manger, but He is God. He was killed on the cross so that we may know Him and be with Him forever.
- Of all the joys you'll have on Christmas morning, can you imagine the joy of actually seeing Jesus coming through the clouds and meeting Him in the air?
- On that day, you won't think about what toys you got this Christmas. You can know Him. Simply admit that He is God! Admit that you are a sinner. Receive, as a gift, His dying on the cross for you. Believe that Jesus rose from the grave, is alive, and will return one day for His own.

INTRODUCTION:

John 10:7-11, *"7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

- CHRIST CAME TO GIVE FULL JOY TO HIS VERY OWN... HIS SHEEP
- ARE YOU ONE OF CHRIST'S SHEEP? IF SO, YOU'LL FIND NO JOY APART FROM HIM!
- ARE YOU APART FROM CHRIST TRYING TO BE YOUR OWN SHEPHERD? SHEEP CANNOT LEAD THEMSELVES. YOU'LL KNOW NO JOY APART FROM HIM!

READ PSALM 16

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.*

- A "Messianic Psalm" is, primarily, a psalm that directly prophesies the coming of the Messiah and portrays the circumstances that attend His appearance. Particularly they are referenced in the New Testament by Christ and the apostles themselves.
- This does not mean that the ENTIRE Psalm is to be forced upon application to Christ directly, yet, as with all of scripture, it will point to Him.
- This is a Psalm about Christ's resurrection. So, why preach this on the Sunday leading to the celebration of His birth? Because apart from ALL of His life, we cannot know joy.

JOY NOW (vv.1-8)

- A. Realized through Prayer (v.1)
- B. Resigned to His Rule (v.2)
 - a. He IS Protector
 - b. He IS Lord (Adonai – All-powerful God who is master)
 - c. He IS MY Good
- C. Rejoice among the Saints (v.3)
- D. Removed for Holiness (v.4)
 - a. Rest in His Judgments (this will eat you alive if you're not careful)
 - b. Reckoned Purity (part of this is insufficient sacrifice...on the blood of Christ)
- E. Resolve to be Christ-Centered (vv.5-8) ...ALL FROM AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIS BLESSINGS (EPH.1)
 - a. He is Satisfying NOW (because He is)
 - i. Portion as to inheritance
 - ii. Boundaries as to land inherited
 - b. He is Sovereign
 - c. He is Sure
 - i. Active
 - ii. Ever-Present (this leads to vv.9-11)

JOY THEN (vv.9-11)

- Acts 2 description. Realized future hope. The messiah of the kingdom has always been there.
 - Peter (Acts 2:25-28)
 - Paul (Acts 13:35-37) cf. Ps.16:10
 - Emphasis on the resurrection (as Peter uses v.10) and that attached to Rom.10:9-10. The belief in the resurrection is essential in being born again.
- A. Prevailing Gladness (vv.9-10)
 - a. For ALL of Life
 - i. Kept Now
 - ii. Kept Forever

- b. Because of Christ's Life
 - i. Assurance of Eternal Life
 - ii. When a Person (Christ) is your greatest pleasure, not even death can steal your joy!

- B. Path to Pleasure (v.11)
 - a. Pleasure in the Journey
 - i. Personal ("me")
 - ii. Private
 - iii. Path (death)
 - 1. John 14:6
 - 2. Joy in LIFE can only be known if you know you'll have joy in DEATH
 - b. Pleasure is in a Person
 - i. Presence is Enough
 - ii. Position is Secure (Heb.1:13)

CONCLUSION

- Directed prayer through this Psalm
- Pray over UBC
- ARE YOU ONE OF HIS? DO YOU WANT TO BE? IN HIM IS REAL JOY, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH AND SUFFERING.