

the guidance of the Lord. The happiest people in the world are those who enjoy the sense of being in His will. It is these who also shout! The verb shout means to **trill** the voice, to make a vibration of joy.

Conclusion

When one belongs to the Lord, he falls under the sweet promises of God. One of these provides assurance of guidance. Oh, who would not desire to experience the fullness of an infinite God in his life!

"Wherever He may guide me,
No want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim;
He knows the way He taketh,
And I will walk with Him.

Notes

BOOK OF PSALMS

Jan 5, 1986

"Guidance for Life"

Psalms 32:8-11

Introduction

1. There are seven penitential Psalms in the Bible (6, 32, 38, 41, 102, 130, 143). One cannot help but feel so blessed in reading and devouring their messages.

2. Repentance includes at least these three factors: a. Acknowledgement of sin. b. uncovering of sin, and c. Confession of sin. All of these were given by David (v. 5). He did this because his heart was genuinely searched by the Spirit of God through His prophet Nathan (see 2 Sam. 11-12).

3. Once sin was dealt with, God gave His servant assurance (vv. 6, 7). He himself was full of the goodness of the Lord (vv. 1, 2). It was wonderful to be relieved of the pains of body and mind (vv. 3, 4).

4. A blessed by-product of getting matters straight with the Lord was the experience of His promise for guidance. Couched in the midst of this penitential Psalm—how precious and sweet it is (v. 8). Consider some points to this precious thought of being led by the Lord.

1. THE PATH TO CHOOSE.

a. Totally. v. 8.

The word "way" in this verse seems to impress one with the thought that God has an overall structuring to a person's life. Some have referred to this as God's blueprint for each one redeemed by the blood. Check out these verses for support of this idea: Jer. 1:5; Acts 9:15-16; Eph. 2:10.

b. Personally. v. 8.

The multiplication of personal pronouns is impressive. God enters into every life personally and He illuminates His will for the life to each

one. His usual course of action is one step at a time. He orders the steps and stops with precision. Check out Psa. 37:23 and Acts 16:6 for further illucidation of this thought. Just as God is concerned for the salvation of the individual, so is He concerned that the details of life as a believer will be in harmony with His blessed will.

2. THE INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW.

Divine synergism is the manner in which God's will is experienced. It is unveiled to us in a total and personal fashion, but commands a response from our hearts. Three verbs in the text make this very clear:-

a. Listen to God. v. 8.

"I will instruct thee." The original verb here means to "make wise." It has the thought of bringing one into success (cf. Josh. 1:7, 8). It is obvious that God does this for us through His precious Word. To receive this wisdom from above, it is necessary that we have an ear toward heaven!

b. Learn from God. v. 8.

"I will teach thee." To teach is the verb for "give light" or "illuminate". What a blessed truth. When one learns from Him, light is cast on the way! From none other can light be received. A wonderful promise along this line is Isaiah 50:10.

c. Look to God. v. 8.

"I will guide thee." To guide here is really the verb which means to counsel or advise. This, says the Lord, will be done with His eye. It is as if His eye will constantly be upon David. What a wonderfully blessed thought! Paul emphasizes the need to look to the Lord also (Heb. 12:2).

NOTE All three of these thoughts are combined in the action of Mary in Luke 10:39.

3. THE DANGER TO AVOID.

David knew very well that one could be placed in a

in a situation in which the Lord's guidance might not be appreciated. Nathan was sent to point this out! Hence, David shows the great need along this line. He points to two dangers:-

a. Impulsiveness of horse. v. 9.

The figure of the horse seems to suggest the animal which moves with rapidity and often times out of control. Horse sense may fit into some situations, but it still must be controlled with bit and bridle. It has no understanding of its own. Surely, God is noting that guidance is not without restraint!

b. Obstinateness of mule. v. 9.

The mule is a patent example of stubborn and immoveable objects. How hard-headed some are when God seeks to guide them. The head and the mouth must be controlled--these are the concerns of the bit and bridle. It is admitted that from these, the whole body turns (James 3:3).

NOTE It would be well to reread the account in the Word of the wilderness journey of the children of Israel. How graciously and tenderly He sought to lead them. But how sadly they abused His endeavors!

4. THE BENEFIT TO ENJOY.

Guidance from the Lord and under His blessed direction is not without its compensation. Blessed be His Name for this! Here are some of them:-

a. Without the believer. v. 10.

The mercy of God will surround the child of God who trusts HIM. Who could want to live without His mercy?! The rule for having this is direction from the Lord.

b. Within the believer. v. 11.

Those who are upright, righteous are going to be glad. Who are these? Those who experience