

Easter Day – April 17, 2022

*“You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

- Psalm 16:11 -

These words reflect David’s deep faith and intimacy with God. They reflect his treasuring of God and his bliss and contentment when spending time in his presence. They reflect his fervent trust that God will deliver him from his enemies and, thus, give him victory over death.

David’s experience prefigured Christ and his relationship with the Father. Like David, Jesus maintained deep faith and intimacy with God, and he experienced great joy in his presence. He also knew that if he followed his Father’s will, he would triumph over every enemy of God, humanity, and creation, and gain victory over death, not only for himself, but for all who would believe and follow him.

So, Jesus followed his Father’s will all the way to the cross, but that was not the end of the story. Yes, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! And now we, like David and Jesus may also sing these words of praise, “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Now we, too, can enjoy the pleasures of communing with God and living in his continual presence. Because Christ is risen, we can begin to experience a taste of eternal life even now: “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (Jn. 17:3). We may “know” the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit (see Jn. 15:26 and Matt. 28:20). And this knowing goes far beyond a mere intellectual knowing about God; it’s an experiential knowledge of him that involves trust, faith, and intimate personal relationship with him. And it involves receiving his guidance and obeying his will that “makes known the path of life.”

Jesus is the path of life. He said it this way, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6a). “My sheep know my voice, I know them, they know me and follow my voice” (see Jn. 10:3-5, 14). And he promises, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (Jn. 14:23, NIV).