



Heartbeats along the way: The Instructed Heart

"I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me." Psalm 16:7

This is a Psalm of David sub-titled as a song of trust and security. Its eleven verses encapsulate the life of a child of God. There is petition, observation, declaration, affirmation, and faithful promise to follow God. Please read it yourself and imagine you are its writer. It's printed below.

David was as human as the next person. He had his share of challenges in his life; he had his share of sin; but he had more than a normal share of triumphs and blessings.

On our journey together toward a new church, we will face all of the experiences David had through his life as shepherd, warrior, king, sinner, and penitent. We can learn the lessons David leaves us in this psalm. We can offer our lives to the Lord and declare, as David did, "You are my God." We can praise the Lord, and even as we sleep, let our hearts instruct us.

What does that mean? I believe it is Night School for the Faithful! God is at work even as we sleep, speaking to our own hearts to teach us what God wants us to learn.

The Psalmist declares that the benefits of an instructed heart are gladness, joyfulness, security, eternal pleasures, and a beautiful inheritance.

I believe our new House of Worship at Spring Garden campus will be our beautiful inheritance.

"Lord of our lives, bless us with Your good counsel. Instruct our hearts in Your ways. And give us courage to respond. Amen."

~ cl reynolds

Psalm 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 boundary 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.