***Psalm 16:7-9 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons. 8I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.***

A few weeks ago, I was watching a short video on Facebook. There was a little girl on stage with a whole bunch of other children. She was looking, searching, the audience, the look on her face was one of uncertain hope. Her parents were videoing. As the little girl scanned, she found her parents and her face lit up in a smile. Her parents had shown up and her heart was glad. It made me smile to see the happiness in her eyes. Love is showing up.

 In our verses this morning, David is celebrating the joy he finds in the God that shows up. Our God shows up. He is the Audience. He fills the auditorium, and His focus is on each of us individually. He is never late, and He is never lacking. He’s on time and perfect in provision. We rejoice in that this morning. We are excited. We need not scan. He is always before us.

 Psalm 16 is thought by some theologians to be a quiet and private prayer between David and God, as David encounters challenges in his life. Verse 7 starts- *I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel.* Wise counsel. Trusted counsel. Gracious counsel. God meets David, and us, where we are and gives us perfect answers. David is thankful for this communion with God. God doesn’t leave us to our delusions or our vanities and pride. He instructs us. Now, whether we choose to hear is another matter. Many issues and hardships come because we do not hear the wise and gracious counsel of the Lord. We instead pursue our own short-term pleasures. David knows that God leads in the pathway eternal – He trusts that these brief and momentary hardships, faced day by day, are nothing when compared with the eternal glory ahead.

 David continues – *My heart also instructs me in the night seasons*. The Hebrew has the idea of reins, like horse reins. My heart – my reins – under the trusted hand of the Holy Spirit, leads me to what is pleasing to God. Even while others sleep, even when darkness seems all around and I find myself in night seasons, the Holy Spirit is leading, guiding, equipping me according to the hidden things of God. Night and day, we never do this life alone.

 Verse 8 starts *I have set the Lord always before me -* God is always David’s focus. He is always before him. We set Christ before us. We see Christ in everything. On the mountaintop and in the valley, God is with us. Like the little girl, finding her parents in the audience, we see our God always before us. He is with us, no matter the hour or the day. David has made a choice, knowing God to be trustworthy and wise, a perfect Counselor in all situations. David has placed God before him in the lead always. Have we placed God before us in the lead always?

 Verse 8 finishes - *Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved –* God is our Fortress. Psalm 46 tells us - *God is our refuge and strength, Avery present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear*. Romans 8:31, the Apostle Paul reminds us - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* We sing a song, “just like a tree, planted by the water, we shall not be moved”. Why aren’t we moved? Because we are rooted in Trust of God through Jesus Christ. We are standing firmly in Faith. We receive counsel and we praise Him for that counsel, keeping Him before us, night and day. Therefore, I will be steadfast in my duty to Him today, and steadfast in my expectation of the glory to come.

 Verse 9 starts *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices* ***–*** Based on these assurances and the confidence that God is enough…that His Grace is sufficient and His strength is perfected in weakness, therefore my heart is glad. Have the dark times departed? No, but I’m still glad! My glory rejoices – Glory, in this context, has the idea of my tongue, my voice, will rejoice. Have the dark times departed? No, but I’m still rejoicing! If I rejoiced even half as much as I complain, life would be different… don’t y’all look at me like I’m the only one!

 Verse 9 finishes - *My flesh also will rest in hope –* We rest in the Hope of Jesus. Jesus says in Matthew 11:28 - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* We rest in the Hope of counsel day by day, while we walk this pathway called life, with the Lord always before us. We cast all our care upon Christ, because He cares for us. We rest in our present situation, and we rest in the Hope Jesus gives us in John 17:3 - *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* Therefore, we rejoice in hope, we are patientin tribulation, we continue steadfastly in prayer, just as Romans 12:12 instructs.

 This week, let’s resolve to place God, through Jesus Christ, always before us. Let’s see Him everywhere we look. Let’s rejoice and be glad in all circumstances, knowing His Grace is sufficient and He is for us and not against us. Let’s spend more time in peaceful communion with our Precious Counselor. He loves us and we can rest in that glorious hope.