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Please take a moment to quiet yourself before God. Ask Him to forgive you for any sin that is on your heart and to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit.

Please read Psalm 16:5-9.

According to verse 5, what is the Lord?

He is our inheritance and our cup. When I hear the word *inheritance* I usually think of money, material goods, jewels, works of art, grandma's china, etc. But to the ancient Hebrew, *inheritance* always meant land. God gave every tribe of Israel, except for the tribe of Levi, a portion of the Promised Land as their inheritance. Instead of land, the Levites received the Lord as their inheritance. Amazing! Colossians 3:24 states that as New Testament Christians we have an inheritance as well. Part of our inheritance in the Lord includes our home, work, family, ministry, friends and neighbors.

Please read verse 5 again. What do you think *the Lord is my cup* means? According to Matthew Henry a cup usually contains something that nourishes, sustains or refreshes and the cup of the Lord sweetens "the most bitter cup of affliction." In Matthew 26:39 Jesus states, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as You will," therefore I believe the cup could also represent God's will for a person's life. There is no better lot in life than to have God's will fulfilled!

What two words describe our inheritance (verse 6)?

Good and pleasant. God means for us to find great satisfaction and joy in the inheritance that He has given us. The phrase, "The lines have fallen to me in

pleasant places,” refers to the division of the Promised Land to the Hebrew people. In other words, the portion of land is very beautiful and fruitful.

According to verse 7, name two ways that we learn about walking with the Lord.

He gives us counsel and our heart instructs us as we sleep (every college student’s dream). The word *counsel* in the original Hebrew is *ya’ats*, which means, “to advise, consult, purpose, plan.” God has planned a life of purpose for us and He will advise us at every step how to live out His plan. The Hebrew word for *heart* in this verse, *kilyah* is a different word than usually used to render this word. *Kilyah* means kidney, the heart as the seat of emotions, and “the innermost and most private aspect of a person” (TCWSD OT, 509). This word is also defined as *reins*. *Reins* are used to control the direction and actions of domestic animals. When we apply ourselves to the study of God’s word and allow it to flow like water into every crack and crevice of our heart, it will begin to change and control us.

Please read verse 8 again.

What makes it possible for us to be unshaken by circumstances?

Choosing to focus on God and depending on His protection. The psalmist states that, “I have *set* the Lord always before me.” The word *set* refers to a deliberate choice to trust God’s truth on every occasion. If something is *set* always before you it is in front of you wherever you look, wherever you go. God precedes you everywhere and in everything. In every activity you have an opportunity to glorify Jesus. The phrase, “...He is at my right hand...” means that you will receive help. God is as close as your right hand, waiting to help and strengthen you.

Please read verse 9 again.

Because God is our great reward, because He counsels us and waits at our side to help us what four things will mark our lives?

When we seek after the treasures of God and not the world, we will have joy, gladness, rest and hope.

This day you may have joy, rest, gladness and hope in every situation because God is your inheritance.

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