**GOD’S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE**

**Psalms 16:11**

[**11**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-16-11/)**Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.**

**INTRO:**

**Illustration: God Has A Plan that We Can’t See**

**Someone once said that Christians are a lot like ants that are marching across a masterpiece painting throughout life. When we go across a great area of yellow, we feel as if the whole world is sunny, wonderful, and yellow. However, when we go across an area of dark brown or black, we think our whole life is nothing but darkness and gloom. It works the same when we go across the reds, the blues, and the greens throughout life.**

**The problem is that we are not able to see the entire picture. You see, the truth is we are marching through this life across God’s masterpiece that He has prepared and painted just for us! One day we will be able to look at this masterpiece painting from the creator’s point of view. Only then will we see a beautiful image of His grace and His glory!**

**\*\*Here are some things you should know about God’s plan.**

**1. Know the Realities of God’s Plan**

 **A. God’s Plan is a Different Plan**

**\*\*His ways are not our ways.)**

 **B. God’s Plan is a Declared Plan**

**\*\*God has declared a plan that leads to victory if we only keep doing what His plan says to do.**

 **C. God’s Plan is a Detailed Plan**

**\*\*That does not mean we know every detail or understand every detail. All that matters is that we follow the one who knows and understands every detail of the plan!**

**2. Know the Requirements of God’s Plan**

 **A. His Plan Requires Surrender**

**\*\*No longer do we obey our plans, but we instead surrender to God and His plan if we are Christians.**

 **B. His Plan Requires Submission**

**\*\*As the great hymn declares, perfect submission leads to blessed assurance. If we get the assurance of His blessings then we must submit perfectly to Him and His plan!**

 **C. His Plan Requires Steadfastness**

**\*\*Steadfastness means faithfulness. We must be faithful to God’s plan daily.**

**3. Know the Results of God’s Plan**

 **A. God’s Plan Leads Us to Grace**

 **1. Grace to overcome Sin.**

 **2. Grace to overcome Satan.**

 **3. Grace to over Sorrow.**

 **B. God’s Plan Leads Us to Glory**

**\*\*If we stick to God’s plan . . .**

 **1. We will have glorious joy in our Hearts.**

 **2. We will have glorious joy in our Homes.**

 **3. We will have glorious joy in our Heaven.**

**\*\*In our text there are three key words that emphasize God’s plan for our lives.**

**\*\*These three words tells us about God’s Path, God’s Presence, and God’s Pleasures that He has planned for our lives, so let’s look closer to see God’s Plan For Your Life.**

**I. GOD’S PLAN INCLUDES GOD’S PATH**

**\*\*The Psalmist said, “Thou wilt shew me the path of life:”**

 **A. It is a Particular Path**

**Psalms 23:3 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Psalms 25:10 All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**\*\*You can read about Bible Christians or sit down with a present Christian, and both will tell you about a particular path God led them in throughout life.**

**\*\*You will see every Christian’s path is a particular path that is Unbelievable, Unreal, Unexpected, and Uplifting!**

 **B. It is a Plain Path**

**Psalms 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.**

 **1. God’s Plain Path is Clear**

**Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.**

 **2. God’s Plain Path is Christ’s**

**Isaiah 48:17 Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.**

 **C. It is a Prosperous Path**

 **1. This Path Helps Us to Prosper in this Life.**

 **2. This Path Helps Us to Prosper in the Lord.**

**Illustration: Way before the smart phones or even the GPS devices, when we knew we had to go somewhere where we had never been before, we got out a great big book called Rand-McNally’s Road Atlas. If you knew where you were going and where you were starting from, it was amazing how you could simply trace the road ways and the paths that would take you to your destination. How I wish more Christians would go back to seeking where God is leading them and then get out God’s atlas called the Bible and follow the directions and the path he wants us to take to get there.**

**\*\*God does have a plan for your life, but you must first get on God’s path!**

**II. GOD’S PLAN INCLUDES GOD’S PRESENCE**

**\*\*Next the Psalmist said, “in thy presence *is* fulness of joy;”**

**\*\*Where ever the Lord is there is full joy!**

 **A. God’s Joyful Presence is Available**

**\*\*You can find God’s joyful presence if you will . . .**

 **1. Seek His Plan Where He Wants You**

 **2. Seek His Path Where He Wants You**

 **3. Seek His Place Where He Wants You**

 **4. Seek His Pew Where He Wants You**

 **B. God’s Joyful Presence is Abundant**

**\*\*His joyful presence is so abundant that for a Christian it will Overflow, Overtake, and Overwhelm your whole being.**

 **1. It is Abundantly Powerful!**

 **2. It is Abundantly Plenteous!**

 **C. God’s Joyful Presences is Absolute**

 **1. It’s absolute if we are absolutely Real with God.**

 **2. It’s absolute if we are absolutely Right with God.**

**\*\*We’ve got to be right and real with God to enjoy His joyful presence!**

 **D. God’s Joyful Presence is Adequate**

 **1. It’s fully Satisfying!**

 **2. It’s fully Sufficient!**

**\*\*This world cannot offer anything that is a sure thing to be 100% satisfying and sufficient, but I have found that the Lord’s presence always is!**

**\*\*I’m thankful I’m a part of His plan and His presence is a part of that plan as well and I get to experience it now and again.**

**III. GOD’S PLAN INCLUDES GOD’S PLEASURE**

**\*\*The final phrase in our text says, “at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.”**

 **A. Notice the Particular Place**

**at thy right hand  - That’s where the pleasure is!**

 **1. Stay where He Stays**

 **2. Stand where He Stands**

 **3. Step where He Steps**

 **B. Notice the Peaceful Pleasure**

**\*\*David’s experiences with the Lord let him know . . .**

 **1. The Lord’s Pleasures are Different**

 **a. They are unique!**

 **b. They are unmatched!**

 **2. The Lord’s Pleasures are Delightful**

 **C. Notice the Precious Promise**

***there are* pleasures for evermore – It never stops!**

**I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

 **1. His Pleasures are Never-ending!**

 **2. His Pleasures are Near!**

**\*\*I’m thankful for the pleasure I have experienced while following His plan for my life.**

**CLOSE**

**Here’s two illustrations and I’m done:**

**1. Once there was a retired engineer who was paralyzed, and he was no longer employed to draw up blueprint plans so bridges could be built. But then one day he got a call from a company that sought His expertise in drawing blueprints for suspended bridges. He took his time and after months he finished the blueprint.**

 **Permits got approved and bridge crews went to work. After a couple of years it was finally complete. When it was finished, they brought the engineer to the opening ceremony. As he looked on that bridge, he rolled out a copy of the plans and said, “It’s just like the plan; it’s just like the plan.”**

**2. In an election year there are several candidates who are seeking for you to make them your leader by telling you their plan for the country.**

**In comparison, there is a far more important decision you must make. There are two leaders who would like to lay out a plan for your life for you to follow: one is Satan; the other is the Savior. One will lie and promise great pleasures and a wonderful and great life, but Satan’s plan ends with destruction.**

**The other will tell you the truth. He will tell you there will be suffering and sorrow along the way. He will also tell you that He will never leave you, and there will come a day that you will enjoy real pleasure forevermore if you will only keep following His plan for your life.**

**Based on those two illustrations, I have two sets of questions:**

**1. Who will you choose? Which plan will you follow through life? By the way, if you do not choose the Savior, then you have chosen Satan.**

**2. If you have chosen Jesus Christ as your leader already, then have you been following His plan? Have you built your life based upon His blueprint? In the end when you face the Lord, will He look at your life and look at His plan for your life and say, “It’s just like the plan!”?**