

This morning I'd like to read from several passages, starting with Ps. 48 and I shall read v. 14. (reading text).

A question that perplexes many is the question of guidance. Here we have the assurance that God will be our guide forever and ever. Look at Ps. 32:8-9 where we have another passages that contains more than is obvious at simply reading. (reading text.) "I will counsel you and watch over you" says the NIV. KJV says "I will guide you with my eye upon you."

Then let us look at Acts 16, reading vv. 6-10 (reading text.) "Kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. He does not say how he was kept by the Spirit from doing this thing. The next v. says that when they came to the border of Mysia they tried to enter Bythia but the spirit of Jesus would not allow them to . . . During the night Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia standing, begging him, Come over to Macedonia and help us . . ."

God leads and guides. That is clearly taught in the Bible. He has promised to be our guide with his eye upon us. In ancient times God gave dreams and visions. We did not yet have the Scripture. God spoke to holy men of old and gave them His truth, and told them what he wanted them to do. Just how often he spoke to them, how much precise information he gave them as to what they should do we do not know. But we know that He did do that in ancient times.

There is a tendency to look for dreams and visions today, but there is a great danger in this. Jer. 17:9 tells us that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. We may have a feeling that comes from our own desires and is not from God at all. We may have a dream which is the result of experiences we had yesterday or a month ago, and they get put together in peculiar ways by our psychic. We may receive impulses from Satan, for there is nothing Satan wants to do more than to lead a Christian astray.

Our feelings are not a safe guide for us. God has given us the entire Scripture now. That was not available to people in ancient times. The story is told of a rural community in which a man felt convinced God had called him to preach. He went to presbytery and asked them to ordain him. The presbytery could not find that he any qualifications that would fit him to take leadership of a congregation, and publicly present God's Word.

They asked him, How do you know you've been called to preach? He said, I heard a voice that kept saying PC, PC, PC which of course I understood to mean Preach Christ, preach Christ.... After examining him someone said, I think the letters meant Plow Corn, Plow Corn. . . We need to plow corn. We need to do the things that are necessary to carry on our lives. God does not call everyone to stand in the pulpit. God does not call everyone to be supported by God's people in presenting God's Word. But God does call every Christian to preach Christ in the sense that He calls every Christian to be a witness for Him.