

- I. We should mention, before beginning the formal part of our study, that the Psalms have a number of interesting language features. They are written in poetry--but poetry without meter although rhythm seems readily discernible. One of the factors increasing the rhythm feature of the Psalms is "parallelism". This is a literary device whereby the writer re-emphasizes his points. Parallelism may be synonymous, as the writer repeats essentially the same idea; or synthetic, as he repeats the essential features and adds a bit of knowledge to it; or antithetical, as the author states one point and then gives the contrary side of it.
- J. Speech figures and rhetorical questions also abound in the Psalms. Of these we can say nothing new but most of the questions raised in the Psalter were never designed to be answered...but to make the reader think.
- K. These notes are not our messages for this series but are supplementary ideas to augment our messages. Generally one paragraph per Psalm summarizes the key ideas to be found in the messages...but the notes are not sermon outlines. The attempt is to give the listener something to work with--beyond the simple chore of staying awake during the meetings. For those who wish to study further in the Psalter, a crude list of useful books is given on the last page of these notes.

II. Practical Lessons from the Psalms.

A. The Blessing and Reality of Divine Deliverance, Ps. 116

(This is the logical place for the beginning of our series since, without deliverance, there is no ground for other spiritual growth or understanding.)

1. Introductory notes on this Psalm (116)

a. Outline: (brief)

--introduction, vss 1-2

(the introduction sketches the relationship between the writer and the Lord...with the intention of the Psalmist to respond and enjoy the Lord.)

--background, vss 3-4

(the writer has known deep trials including the threat and presence of death).

--testimony, vss 5-8

(the Lord has shown bountiful aid to him and has shown deliverance in all needed areas of his life.)

--dedication, vss 9-19

(the writer sees himself in a view of yield-
edness and witness to God. Deliverance re-
sults in thankfulness; produces yieldadness;