

LORD WHO SHALL ABIDE IN THY TABERNACLE PSALMS 15:1-5

Text: Psalms 15:1

Psalms 15:1

¹LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Introduction:

In Psalm 15, David begins with two questions in verse 1, which he answers in the verses that follow.

The questions which David poses have to do with living in the presence of God.

The reason he asked these questions was that he understood well the power that comes to one's life when they live with a daily awareness of the presence of God.

David's understanding of the power of God's presence is illustrated by the way he phrases his questions.

Dwelling in His presence provides us with direction in life, and security in life.

Living my life with a daily awareness of God's presence allows me to be directed in my pilgrimage today here on earth and to be secure in my expectation of being with God one day in Heaven.

Well, how can we live with a daily awareness of God's presence? Let's note what David tells us here about the characteristics of one who persists in the presence of God.

1. HIS WALK (VS. 2A)

Psalms 15:2

² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

If one is going to daily dwell in the Lord's presence, his walk must be upright, his work righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart.

Paul prayed for the Colossian and Thessalonian believers

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, ¹² That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

2. HIS WORK (vs. 2B)

Psalms 15:2

² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

If one is going to daily dwell in the Lord's presence, his work must be "righteous." Righteous works are works that are "right." How can I know I am doing the "right" things?

Through obedience to the revealed will of God for my life (Ephesians 2:10)

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

One who enjoys a daily awareness of God's presence in his life is one who has made being right with God and doing right for God a daily priority.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

His desire is only to please God! He lives for an audience of One!

What is the purpose of our works being right?

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

All that we do should be for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

3. His Words (vs. 2c-4)

Psalms 15:2-4

² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not.

If one is going to daily dwell in the Lord's presence, his words must not be a reproach

Proverbs 25:11

¹¹ A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

James 1:26

²⁶ If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

Note what we are told about the kind of speech that will characterize the life of one who lives with an awareness of God's presence:

A. What He Says Will Be Considerate (vs. 3)

Psalms 15:3

³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

He will refuse to participate in gossip.

Before we pass on any information, we should ask the following three questions:

1. Is it true?
2. Is it needful?
3. Is it kind?

B. What He Says Will Be Convicting (vs. 4)

Psalms 15:4

⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not.

His words will be used of God to identify that which should be condemned and that which should be commended.

Allowing the Lord to guide his speech will lead him at times to sit down and be silent, but at other times he will be led to stand up and speak out.

C. What He Says Can Be Counted On (vs. 4)

Psalms 15:4

⁴In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

He is a person who can be counted on to do what he says! He will back up his promises with action, even when it hurts to do so!

He does not shy away from making a promise and when he makes one, he also doesn't shy away from keeping his promise.

Matthew 5:33-37

³³Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: ³⁴But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: ³⁵Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

4. HIS WAYS (VS. 5)

Psalms 15:5

⁵*He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

If one is going to daily dwell in the Lord's presence, his ways must be "pure."

A. His motives will be pure - v. 5a

He will not be out to get ahead at the expense of others. Instead, he will be sincerely concerned about helping others in whatever way the Lord would enable him to do so.

B. His methods will be pure - v. 5b

He will not be the kind of person who does anything to get ahead in life. Instead, he will seek to be a person of integrity who draws the line when it comes to conducting their business in life.

When it comes to the way in which he conducts himself, the person who is preoccupied with God's presence in his life will be more concerned with integrity than with image!

He will be more concerned about how he is viewed by God above him than he is in how he is viewed by the world around him.

Close:

David concludes this Psalm by saying of the person who persists in the presence of God that he shall not be moved or shaken.

Why?

Because he will live his life with a sense of direction from God and with a sense of security in God!

After sixteen years as a missionary on the continent of Africa. David Livingstone returned to Scotland to address the students at Glasgow University. His body had been ravaged by some 27 fevers that had overtaken him during his years of service. One arm hung useless at his side, the result of being mangled by a lion. The core of his message was: "Shall I tell you what sustained me amidst the toil, the hardship, and loneliness of my exile? It was Christ's promise, "Lo. I am with you always, even unto the end." Christ's promise isn't just for David Livingstone, it also is for you. He is with the missionary, but He also is with the Christian living out his or her faith in the business world, in the schoolroom, and in the home. Christ is with every Christian at all times, in all places. So take courage and remain faithful.