

Psalms 15

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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

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Psalms 15

YouTube Prayer Link

I will live in the house of the LORD

Psalms 15; David's poems.

This is a hymn to help those who come to worship in the temple understand the etiquette of entering the temple. There are 10 points in the poem of entering the temple, such as acting uprightly, doing things righteously, and not lending money for profit and not accepting bribes. The psalm was later applied to the character of a person who is close to God.

It is a liturgical hymn of pilgrimage, sung by the elect as they enter the temple.

With the exception of Psalm 23, this psalm is probably the most familiar and beloved of the Psalms. It is the most complete expression of the ideal man in the Psalms.

The tabernacle was the tabernacle of the congregation, the place of God's presence, and not everyone could enter it, but the priests and the Levites, and the tabernacle was divided into a sanctuary, a holy place, and an outer court. God ordained that the Levites were in the outer court, and the priests could go to the sanctuary to serve, and the high priest could go to the sanctuary, but only once a year, and if they were not careful, they would die. David was of the tribe of Judah, and he could offer sacrifices but not enter the tabernacle, but he always wanted to enter.

that I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever and ever. In Psalm 23, he writes, "The Lord is my shepherd, and I will not lack," and finally says, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord

forever." David thought all day about this, and he was determined not to dwell in it, but he expressed this thought: Who can dwell in your holy mountain? The holy mountain, which has different meanings, first refers to Mount Sinai, where the LORD came, when the whole mountain was smoking, and the LORD said to Moses, "The people shall not come near, but you and Aaron may come up." The sacred mountain is bounded, and ordinary people cannot. This may be referring to Mount Zion, believing that what is really meant is how it is possible to be with God, and David has been wondering: Who can do it? According to God's inspiration, he wrote down the people who met the following conditions.

David begins by bringing out the theme of the whole psalm with a question, and responds to the initial question by concluding that only a "holy" person can live with God. David pointed out that the qualifications that a person must possess in order to draw close to God and worship God in the tabernacle are that he must live holy, be upright, and be respectful of God. In the New Testament, "Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all your works." (1 Peter 1:15), "who can dwell," and whoever enters the sanctuary of God must dwell with God a holy man. To draw near to God, one must live a holy life. There are only five verses in this section, verse 1 is the pilgrim's question, verses 2 to 5 are the answers, and the second half of verse 5 is a promise to the doers.

The psalmist illustrates the personality traits of such people in seven ways:

1 "Do not slander with your tongue," God's ideal man would refrain from speaking ill of others or spreading gossip that he heard. What a sin it is to "betray" friends and brothers and sisters! 2 Thessalonians 3:11 and 1 Timothy 5:13. Beware of being a tongue-teller. To speak truth in the heart is to keep the truth in one's heart, without deceit in one's heart, and in the same way to speak truth from one's mouth, without lies. The words that people say in their lives are innumerable, unlike words, which can be modified when written, and can be relied on by the mistakes of the people when they are wrong; And as soon as the words came out, they couldn't be taken back, as if a gust of wind had passed, and it was too late to regret it.

2. "Do not treat your friends badly", do not do anything that causes their friends to suffer or suffer, even if you are facing the difficulties of your own interests or circumstances, you will not change this choice. We recognize who we should not be with, and who we should be with. If we want to please unbelievers and win them as friends, we cannot be faithful to God. "To be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

3 "Do not slander your neighbor with your fellow men", and the idle words that men speak must be confessed every word in the day of judgment; for by thy word thou shalt be justified, and by thy word thou shalt be condemned." Jesus was actually saying that whether a man is wicked or a good man is known by the words that come out of his mouth, and that the words of man will be one of the bases of judgment to come. Not slandering our neighbors is the minimum requirement for us to follow the great commandment of "loving our neighbor as ourselves." God wants us to love our neighbors, friends, and even our enemies and pray for them.

4 "They despise the despise of the Lord, but honour them that fear the Lord," honoring those who obey the word of God, and refusing to walk with them that rebel against God. David tells us that the "bandits" (Chinese NIV "despicable men") are in the world at the same time as "Jehovah-fearers," and that as God's people, we should have a clear stance of right and wrong: we should "despise" the "bandits"; "Respect" for "those who fear Jehovah." To despise the bandit is to despise his power and his wealth, and not to become inflammatory.

5 "We have sworn not to change our promises, even if we have suffered losses," which means that if we make a promise, we will keep it even if we later find that we have suffered a loss to ourselves about what we promised. If we deny it, we become a dishonest person. God respects those who believe in their word. It is very sad for a Christian to become an untrustworthy and unreliable person.

6 To refrain from lending money for profit means not to take advantage of a brother's affliction in the midst of his affliction, so as to plunge him into greater difficulty. The Old Testament law clearly states that it is profitable to lend to Gentiles, but not to your brother. So Jehovah your God will bless you in the land where you go to possess your possession, and in all that you do with your hands. If a man is insatiable in the matter of money and takes advantage of the lack of the poor for profit, he will not please God.

7 "Do not be bribed to harm the innocent," and do not bear false witness to harm the brother or abuse his power to subjugate the brother for the sake of money. The reason is that bribery will lead to the end of "framing the innocent". Egypt Exodus 23:8 says, "Do not accept bribes, for they can blind the discerning and pervert the words of the righteous, especially the temptation of money that permeates every trade." We should rely on God's grace and power to reject all lawless and ill-gotten gains.

Finally, the psalmist declares that "he that doeth these things shall never be moved" and that not only will he be able to enjoy all that is in God's house, but that God will be his father and his protector, a seemingly simple verse that expresses David's faith in God's justice and faithfulness, as well as his belief in the blessing of those who do God's will.

What are the basic attributes that we need as worshippers to enter the temple of God, which is the church today? Psalm 15, which we are going to devotional today, is a reminder that as God-worshipping people, there are some basic attributes that are needed to enter into and experience God's presence. A person who lives "with God" must have a good relationship with God and with man, and the two cannot be separated, so the greatest commandment the Lord has given is that we should love God and love others, (1 John 4:20~21). Love is to be willing to let go of one's "rights", love is an adventurous journey. When we serve God, we must first examine ourselves and not think that we can worship however we like. We need to be careful, we have to persevere, we need grace. To serve God, be always thankful, be humble, and know that you too have weaknesses and darkness, and that we are no more righteous than others. These five short verses illustrate the character we are to maintain throughout our lives. Everything we do, everything we say, every thought we think in our hearts, God knows everything. He who lives with God. To

dwell in the temple is to dwell in the tabernacle of the Lord and in the holy mountain of the Lord, which requires true life, word and deed, and manners, as the scriptures say.

Let's pray:

Lord, please enlighten us with the Holy Spirit to behave in our daily ways, thinking about whether we have sinned against you or people in our words. Let us turn away from the evil passions and desires of the world. Lord, you are faithful, thank You for your grace. Pray that we will always have a thankful, convicted heart of sin, and humbly worship You. Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for your precious words that help us examine our lives every day, that we can live with the right character, that our actions and faith may be pleasing to God, holy Lord, I long to live with you, to worship you in your temple, to be partakers of your character. O Lord! May our actions, thoughts, words, and values please You, so that we may live on Your holy mountain for the rest of our lives, and never waver for the rest of our lives!

Prayer is in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Psalm 15

Psalm 15, attributed to David, is a brief yet profound psalm that reflects on the qualities of a person who is worthy of dwelling in God's presence. It explores the question of who may reside in God's holy tent and ascend His holy hill, symbolizing closeness to God and a life aligned with His holiness. The psalm is often viewed as a guideline for moral and spiritual integrity, laying out ethical standards that highlight the essence of a righteous life.

Here's a breakdown of Psalm 15 along with key verses and their significance:

Full Text of Psalm 15 (KJV)

“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?”

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

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

“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.”

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

Key Themes and Verse Explanations

1. The Question of Worthiness (Verse 1)

“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?”

This opening verse sets the theme for the entire psalm. David asks who is eligible to dwell in God’s presence, with “tabernacle” and “holy hill” symbolizing God’s holy dwelling place. It invites readers to reflect on the type of character required to live closely with God.

2. The Qualities of the Righteous (Verses 2-5)

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

This verse summarizes the traits of a righteous person: integrity, justice, and truthfulness. “Walketh uprightly” implies a lifestyle of integrity and moral purity, while “worketh righteousness” refers to performing deeds that align with God’s will. “Speaking truth in his heart” emphasizes honesty that originates from one’s inner self, showing that righteousness is not merely an external display but a reflection of an inner commitment to God’s ways.

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

This verse addresses relational righteousness by condemning slander, harm, and scorn against others. The righteous person avoids gossip, does not harm neighbors, and does not take pleasure in reproaching others. This is a call to guard one’s words and actions towards others, maintaining peace and kindness.

Verse 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.”

Here, the righteous person is described as having discernment about others’ character, “despising” vile persons (i.e., those who indulge in evil) while honoring those who fear the Lord. The latter part of the verse emphasizes faithfulness and reliability, showing that a person of integrity keeps their promises even when it is inconvenient or costly.

Verse 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.”

This final verse condemns exploiting others financially, a practice which was often seen as oppressing the poor. The psalmist emphasizes that righteous living includes not using one’s resources to manipulate or harm others. The last line, “shall never be moved,” promises stability to those who live by these principles, assuring them that God’s favor and protection will keep them secure.

Important Verses and Their Significance

Verse 1: Sets up the foundational question about entering God’s presence, framing the psalm’s exploration of personal integrity.

Verse 2: Highlights inner and outer righteousness, establishing that a righteous character involves both truthful speech and just actions.

Verse 4: Emphasizes honor towards those who are faithful to God and the value of keeping promises, underscoring commitment and loyalty to truth.

Verse 5: Concludes with a promise of spiritual stability and God’s protection, creating an assurance that the righteous are anchored firmly in God’s presence.

Significance and Spiritual Impact

Psalm 15 calls believers to a high moral standard, offering a blueprint for godly character. It challenges individuals to embody qualities such as integrity, truthfulness, and kindness in relationships. The psalm’s assurance that the righteous “shall never be moved” provides comfort and security for those who strive to live uprightly, assuring them that God Himself is their foundation.

For the believer, Psalm 15 serves as both a mirror and a guide, reflecting the standards of a life that pleases God and directing them toward a life of faithful obedience, kindness, and justice.

Psalm 15 is a psalm of David that reflects on the character traits necessary for one who desires to dwell in God’s presence. It is both a theological inquiry into the nature of righteousness and a guideline for moral integrity. This psalm has significant theological thought and spiritual influence, emphasizing the qualities of a righteous life and exploring what it means to live in fellowship with God.

Theological Thought in Psalm 15

God's Holiness and Human Worthiness

The opening question in verse 1, "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?" indicates that coming into God's presence requires a specific moral standard. This reflects the biblical view that God is holy, and access to Him requires a life that mirrors His holiness. God's sanctuary, symbolized here by the "tabernacle" and "holy hill," represents the holiness of His dwelling place, where only those with integrity can come close.

Theologically, this reinforces the idea that holiness is essential to God's nature, and thus to approach God, humans must strive to be set apart, living lives that align with His values.

Ethical Standards as a Reflection of Divine Character

The ethical requirements in verses 2-5 (walking uprightly, doing righteousness, speaking truth, refraining from slander, honoring the faithful, keeping one's word, and avoiding financial exploitation) are grounded in the belief that God's followers must embody His justice, truth, and love.

Each trait outlined here goes beyond outward actions, revealing a life wholly transformed to reflect God's character. By emulating these qualities, the believer mirrors God's own righteousness, underscoring the idea that ethical conduct is not just social behavior but is deeply connected to one's relationship with God.

Faithfulness and Reliability as Divine Traits

Verse 4, where it says that the righteous person "keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind," emphasizes faithfulness and reliability. Theologically, these are also attributes of God, who is always faithful and true. Thus, the psalmist encourages believers to be faithful in all aspects of life, holding their word and acting justly even when it may be inconvenient or costly.

This element reinforces the covenant relationship God has with His people, calling them to reflect His unwavering commitment through their actions and promises.

The Assurance of Stability for the Righteous

Psalm 15 ends with a promise: "He who does these things will never be moved." This assurance reflects the idea that living in accordance with God's standards brings spiritual security. In the ancient world, stability was a mark of God's blessing and presence, suggesting that the righteous, because of their alignment with God's ways, will experience His protection.

Theologically, this stability is not merely physical but also spiritual, indicating that the righteous are rooted firmly in God's favor and presence. This is a promise of eternal security, foreshadowing the hope that those who live by God's standards are safe in His care, both now and in eternity.

Spiritual Influence of Psalm 15

A Call to Introspection and Holiness

Psalm 15 serves as a spiritual mirror for believers to examine their lives against the qualities listed. This psalm encourages readers to question their integrity, honesty, faithfulness, and treatment of others. Such introspection aligns with the call to holiness found throughout the Bible, reminding believers that closeness with God requires personal purity and integrity.

Spiritually, this encourages a heart of humility and a desire for transformation. It motivates believers to seek God's help in refining their character so they can live lives that are pleasing to Him.

Encouragement for Righteous Living in Community

Many of the traits listed in Psalm 15—such as avoiding slander, refraining from harm to one's neighbor, and respecting the faithful—are relational. This emphasizes that righteous living extends beyond personal piety to encompass how one treats others. It reminds believers that their actions have social and relational dimensions, impacting their communities and their witness for God.

Spiritually, this provides a foundation for harmonious relationships within the faith community. By following these guidelines, believers can create environments marked by respect, honor, and integrity, thus reflecting God's presence within their communities.

Strengthening Faith in God's Justice and Faithfulness

The characteristics in Psalm 15 reinforce God's justice, truth, and faithfulness, offering believers a model to aspire toward. The assurance at the end of the psalm that "he who does these things shall never be moved" inspires confidence that God honors and supports those who live by His standards.

Spiritually, this builds trust in God's commitment to uphold the righteous. Believers are encouraged to hold fast to their integrity, knowing that God's justice is sure and that He is a secure foundation. It strengthens faith, helping believers remain steadfast in trials and reassured of God's unwavering support.

A Guide to Reflecting God's Character

Psalm 15 serves as a concise guide for godly character, outlining attributes that reflect God's own nature. In seeking to live by these principles, believers become more like God, embodying His love, justice, and faithfulness in their daily lives.

This influence encourages believers to pursue holiness and to be distinct from the world around them, allowing their lives to be a witness to God's transformative power. It promotes a life of integrity that not only draws them closer to God but also allows others to see God's presence through them.

Conclusion

Psalm 15 is a profound theological and spiritual text that encapsulates the essence of godly character and righteous living. Its theological thought centers on God's holiness, ethical integrity, and the stability that comes from a life aligned with His values. Spiritually, it inspires believers to examine their lives, live in harmony with others, trust in God's justice, and reflect His character. Through its concise yet comprehensive description of a life that pleases God, Psalm 15 remains a timeless call to live a life grounded in holiness, truth, and faithfulness.