

Growing in Grace Resources

INTEGRITY

Psalm 15

- you know, when you think about it--there's some conclusions you can begin drawing about the book of Psalms:
  - 1) one conclusion is that this book deals with some of the most important questions/issues of life.
    - we ought to be very thankful that God has given us this book.
  - 2) it's important for us to study what God says about these questions because the world in which we live has "it's own set of answers" and we're bombarded with those "answers" daily.
    - cf - buy this and then you'll be satisfied
    - watch this sitcom and learn how to solve problems and be happy in 30 minutes or less.
    - (or from a different perspective) - the "deification" of man in our world, and how man has the right/ability to decide:
      - what morality should be
      - who should live and who should die
      - how long a marriage should last
- point is - we're living in a world that proposes "answers" to these kinds of questions daily--are we in a position where we're "armed with biblical truth?"
  - the Psalms will help us do that.
- 3) we also ought to remember that these chapters were actually songs that were sung as part of the Israelite's worship.
  - INPUT - because they were songs--how do you think they would have affected the Israelites "during the week?" (one of the benefits of songs is that they "stay with us"--they make the truths easier to remember and easier to concentrate on.)
  - we're not singing these Psalms as part of our study, but wise would be the person who took time to read over and meditate on the Psalms that had been studied.

## I. Two Important Questions

- before we look specifically at the two questions in verse 1, let me ask you this:
- INPUT - how would you complete this sentence -- "Verse 1 is talking about \_\_\_\_\_"
  
- (varied answers)
  
- let's look specifically at what the verse is saying
  
- A. What kind of person walks with God?
  - these two questions are not "restatements" of each other.
  - they're both important///they're both related--but they're not identical
  
  - the first question "who may abide in thy tent (NASB)" or "who may abide in thy tabernacle? (KJV)" is talking about a temporary condition.
  
- the word "abide" means "to sojourn for a temporary time."
- you remember that the tabernacle in the OT was something "transient" that the Jews transported with them as they traveled through the wilderness.
  - both the word abide and the word tabernacle suggest something temporary.
  
- so the first half of verse one is talking about something very important--but also something that is temporary.
  
- now let's push this a little further:
  - INPUT - what was the purpose of the tabernacle in the OT?  
  
(the place where God manifested His presence to His people, the place of fellowship with God, the place where God spoke to His people and they spoke to Him)
  
- when you "put that into the equation," we can begin to get an idea of what David is picturing?
  - the question is - what are the characteristics of the person who is in fellowship with God--who "walks with God" during his/her lifetime?
  
- Gen. 5:21-24, 6:9 - READ
  
- this is where we got the wording for this point "what kind of person walks with God?"
  - INPUT - why is it important to know the answer to this

question?

- INPUT - what has to happen after knowing the answer to this question? (living in a way that's consistent with the answer)

- the second question in verse 1 is:

#### B. What kind of person will live with God?

- this question is a natural progression from the first one?
- the word "dwell" indicates permanence.
- the idea here is - what kind of person will spend eternity with you?
  - in other words - what will the person be like now who is on their way to heaven?
- now we probably need to make a distinction at this point:
  - we're not talking about: HOW is a person reconciled with God so they can walk with Him, or HOW is a person saved so that they will live with God in eternity
    - we know from many places in Scripture that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone-not of works
      - INPUT - verses that teach this? (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)
  - but Psalm 15 is addressing the issue of - what is a person like now, here on earth--if they have been saved?
    - what are some evidences of the person who is a believer, and what is necessary to have fellowship with God today?
- now, when you think about it from that perspective--there's a book in the NT that addresses that same set of questions
  - what book is it? (the book of I John)
  - cf. I John 1:3, 6-7, 5:13
- so, in some real senses, Psalm 15 is the OT counterpart to the book of I John.
- now, like we said when we began our lesson, the Psalms deal with some of the most important issues of life.
  - now, if you look down at the rest of the chapter--you'll see that it's not very long
    - which means the Lord doesn't give a long list of answers to these questions... (before you "peek", I'll tell you--there are 11 answers in these verses)
      - INPUT - but what should we conclude about the list even before studying it?

(these are some of the "majors"--these are some of the things that are most important to God)

- let's start studying the answers to these important questions:

## II. The Answers (Ps. 15:2-5b)

- the progression of this Psalm is this:
  - the questions are asked in verse 1
  - they are answered in "general terms" in verse 2
  - then they are answered in more specific terms later in the Psalm.
- let's look first at the:

### A. General characteristics

#### 1. he lives uprightly

- NASB - "walks with integrity"
- INPUT - what are some ways a person's integrity might especially manifest itself?
  - INPUT - why is it so tempting to "cut corners" on our integrity?
    - cf. - diff. things that came up building the house.
      - septic system, gutters, CO

#### 2. he works righteously

- we talk a lot about how we can't work our way to heaven
  - that's right//necessary to emphasize-but we can't carry that to the point of thinking that works aren't important
- Eph. 2:10, I John 3:7

#### 3. he speaks honestly

- INPUT - how are #'s 1 & 2 "tied in" with #3?

(a person who is living uprightly and working righteously doesn't have any reason to lie.)
- but probably most of us has been in a situation where we weren't doing right-- then we "had to" lie to cover that up, and then perhaps that led to a series of lies
  - cf. 2 girls at Seattle conference

- INPUT - what does what we've been speaking about have to do with the opening questions in verse 1? ("the finest fellowship is with the fewest sins")
- INPUT - now, there's several more characteristics to study, but what questions should we be asking based on what we've studied so far? (How does my lifestyle "measure up" to the characteristics we're studying?)

## B. Specific characteristics

### 1. he does not slander

- one writer on this passage said, "The word depicts a man who has a long nose and a sharp tongue! He is a snooper, always looking secretly to obtain tidbits of information. It does not matter to him whether the information is true or false. Whatever he gathers he passes along in a manner that hurts the person about whom he speaks. He speaks with innuendo. A slanderer is capable of destroying an innocent person. Prov. 26:22 - The words of a tale bearer are like wounds, and they go down into the innermost part of the belly."

- INPUT - how will this sin affect the issues addressed in verse 1?

- INPUT - how would this sin affect a church family?

### 2. he doesn't destroy

- we're talking about the phrase "nor does evil to his neighbor"  
 - the word evil refers to badness, suffering, hurt

- the idea is - the man/woman who walks with God doesn't leave people "harmed, hurting, or suffering."

- INPUT - when are you and I most prone to violate

this principle (when they were evil to us) What does the Scripture say about this? - return good

### 3. He doesn't ridicule

- word reproach means "ridicule."
- the idea is that that godly people don't "get mileage" out of someone else's misfortune.
- INPUT - how might you or I violate this one today?
- INPUT - implications to childraising?

### 4. Despises worthless people

- David is speaking here about having the right view of the person who isn't living for God and who is living sinfully.
- INPUT - how does our world often view persons who are vile or degenerate? (enlightened, progressive)
- Why would this be incompatible with "walking with God?"

### 5. He honors godly people

- this is the first "positive statement" in the list.
- INPUT - how can you or I honor godly people?

### 6. He keeps his commitments

- swears to his own hurt, and changes not
- cf. people in construction who bid, and then change

### 7. Does not take financial advantage

- usury - "biting" - speaking of taking unlawful profit

### 8. does not take bribes

## III. The Promise

- will never be shaken, moved
- will have assurance of their eternal destiny
- Gal. 6:8