

# A Survey of the Psalms - 1

## Psalm 15

### *Integrity Defined*

**Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6**

Lesson Verse: **Job 2:3, 9**

#### I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. There is such practical instruction to the believer here - written by David, and others in "real-time" (while right in the middle of life, with all its ups and downs). No airy-fairyland approach - just the constant development of confidence and grace!
- C. Sometimes David is focusing on developing faith and confidence in God
- D. Other times focusing on godly living – like this Psalm

#### II. Background

- A. Here, in Psalm 15, young king David is pondering the people who got to work full time in the Tabernacle, and wondered what it must be like
  - 1. The Tabernacle – before the Temple was built, this was the tent where God and man met
  - 2. The holy hill – the small hill where the Temple would be built by his own son
  - 3. Those who got to just hang around and live in the tabernacle
- B. The service of God was no mean or simple thing – it was the most awesome responsibility of the Levites, but it had certain requirements – character traits – to be able to stay so near to the worship of God
- C. David is reflecting on the moving of the ark to the holy hill of Zion.
  - 1. David had failed on the first occasion to of bringing the ark to Zion (2Sam 6:2-8)
  - 2. On the second attempt he is more careful, and did things like God said it was to be carried
  - 3. He realised that God is holy, and has right expectations of us
  - 4. He expects character – godly character
- D. Another bible word for it is “integrity” as in Job 2:3,9
- E. God describes just what Integrity is - with just one word - CHRIST! The perfect Man
- F. These are NOT the qualifications for entering heaven!!! NO!
  - 1. The only qualification for getting to heaven is forgiveness – and that was perfectly paid for in full by Jesus Christ! All anyone has to do is simply believe (Rom 10:4)
  - 2. God here is simply saying that those who are going to live and abide in heaven with God one day (by the grace of God), should act, talk, react, and live the same way as Christ did.
- G. This Psalm describes the kind of person who will enjoy real fellowship with God, while still on earth!
- H. Not everyone has this relationship, and fewer enjoy it (Mt 7).
- I. So, here are 10 things that mark the perfect man. They are 10 things that must be a *natural* part of a Christian's life. If they are not, or are weak, then it must be repented of, and worked on (Rev 3:2).

#### III. Lesson - Psalm 15 - Integrity Defined

- A. **Walk Uprightly** (15:2)
  - 1. NOT the act of walking with good posture
  - 2. But being able to walk without guilt or shame
    - a. No guilt – because sin is all forgiven
    - b. No shame – because you are blameless
      - 1) Not that he doesn't have a record, but that people know he is different now - not constantly going back into sin, and struggling with it
      - 2) But troublesome sins have been forsaken and are in the past
  - 3. Otherwise the person is described as having to walk dishonestly – hypocritically – embarrassed! We have TOO many ashamed Christians, embarrassed of their lives!
  - 4. Sin brings you low, but forgiveness restores you
  - 5. Personal righteousness, personal victory over even the simplest of sins gives you courage
  - 6. Christians can live only one of two ways
    - a. Defeated, discouraged, and ashamed
    - b. Or clean, and righteous, and forgiven, and restored, and determined to stay that way (Pr 24:16)

7. Someone who is harbouring sin in their life, enjoying sinful acts, and disobeying God, will NOT ever enjoy spending time with God, or spending time with God's people!!!
8. So, How do you get "upright"?
  - a. By the blood of the Lamb making you forgiven
  - b. Get the victory over every sin that God exposes in your heart or mind (2Cor 10:4,5)
  - c. By wanting to stay clean and keeping short accounts with God (1John 1:9)

#### B. **Work Righteousness** (15:2)

1. It is one thing to BE righteous – we need to DO right things as well!
2. A Christian's faith is shown by his works - or else it was no faith – only traditions and rituals (James 2:17)
3. All Christians are saved by grace to do "good works" (Eph 2:10)
4. Not just doing "good works" but doing GOD'S works
5. A Christian only knows from the Bible what is right to do
6. What is right to do? Not what is popular, or easy, but RIGHT!
7. Do what Jesus would do...
8. Do what Jesus DID
9. Do you do what everyone else is doing, watch what everyone else is watching, listen to what everyone else is listening to? Then you are not doing right
10. Righteous works include
  - a. Soul-winning
  - b. Praising God, and thanking God when everyone spits at His mention
  - c. Building up a local church – not a football club, or a ballet class – but making THIS a priority when everyone else has made their entertainment their priority
  - d. Taking care of fatherless and widows
11. People who don't worry about doing right and living right, will never enjoy spending time with God, or spending time with God's people!!!
12. By the way, if you don't enjoy it now, what makes you think you will enjoy it when you get to heaven? You had better make sure you actually ARE saved, if you love sin more than the Saviour!

#### C. **Be Honest in Your Heart** (15:2)

1. Realness through and through
2. Quit being two-faced, or only superficial (Mt 15:8)
3. Bible believing Christian hate double meanings, white lies, flatteries, and deceptions.
4. What you say ought to be what you are
5. This is not easy
6. A liar will have a hard time enjoying reading their Bible and praying, and lingering around other believers, wouldn't you say?
7. How to become real
  - a. Allow God to expose your own heart (Heb 4:12; Ps 139:14,15)
  - b. Allow others to tell you how you really are
  - c. Start just being real and honest and the mess that you really are
  - d. Start there, and let the Lord build you up, right (upright)

#### D. **Never Gossip** (Psalm 15:3; Lev 19:16; Ro 1:30; Tit 3:1,2; Jam 4:11)

1. Backbiting is slander (telling bad things about someone else), whispering, or griping about others (Pr 16:28)
2. Do you realise all the damage one tongue can do?
  - a. Lying
  - b. Tearing people down
  - c. Exposing failures that no one else needed to know about
  - d. Just yelling and screaming, and slamming someone
3. The tongue is not steel, yet it cuts, and it's wounds are very hard to heal; its worst wounds are not when its edge is towards our face, but towards our back, when our head is turned.
4. God hates gossips/backbiters (Ps 101:5; Pr 6:16-19)
5. We fail at this so miserably
6. We get hurt by someone and then seek the best way to hurt them back – usually behind their back
7. No wonder so many people quit church – because they have either HEARD a load of gossip, or they are too busy telling a lot of gossip, and it ruins their abiding time with God for sure!
8. How can a Christian defeat a backbiting spirit?
  - a. By confessing that attitude as an awful sin
  - b. By forsaking it as wicked
  - c. By forcing yourself to praise the other person, honour them and be thankful for them (Eph 4:29)

- E. **Protect You neighbour** (15:3) - saved or lost, friend, or foe!
1. He who bridles his tongue will not give a licence to his hand. He wont do with his hand what he is trying to not do with his tongue.
  2. A Christian defends those around him from:
    - a. Trouble - stands with them in times of trouble
    - b. Reproach – he will stop others from tearing someone down
    - c. Vengeance is MINE saith the Lord (Rom 12:19)
- F. **Hate Vile People** (15:4) - run as far away from them as possible
1. A “vile” person is a wicked living man or woman
    - a. Drug dealer
    - b. Abuser
    - c. Thief
    - d. Rapist
    - e. Pervert
    - f. Whore or Harlot
    - g. Rock music star
    - h. Filthy living movie star
  2. It is time that Christians despised filthy TV stars and programs, and talk shows, and books and films!
    - a. Jim Carey
    - b. Eddie Murphy
    - c. Madonna
    - d. Lady Gaga
  3. God wants us to hold those kind of people "in contempt!" – as rejects
  4. Stop making excuses for them, and coddling your pet loves!!!
  5. Get you some godly music, and some wholesome videos
  6. And stop acting like it doesn't matter HOW anyone lives – when God says it does!
- G. **Honour Humble Believers** (15:4)- those that fear the Lord
1. To fear God is the basis for humility, wisdom, and a full life (Pr 19:23; 22:4)
  2. Christians who have no time for other believers are a sorry bunch!
  3. The Bible says the a Bible believer honours and makes time for being with other Bible believers!
  4. People honour all the sports stars – I honour faithful men and women!
- H. **Keep Your Promises** (15:4) - as a vow
1. When we make a promise, we MUST be true to our WORD, not just our ability!
  2. We must do that even if it costs us
  3. This is what Jesus did – He became our guarantor, to His own hurt!
  4. When we make a vow, we MUST keep, protect, fulfil that vow!
    - a. Marriage
    - b. Mortgage
    - c. Car repayment
    - d. Job agreement
    - e. To be in church - keep it priority
    - f. Friendship
  5. Jesus told us not to swear, meaning that we should not promise that we are telling the truth
  6. But we MUST swear when we make an oath – and we must keep that oath, at all cost!
- I. **Doesn't Need to Lend His Money with Interest** (15:5)
1. Usury is interest (Ex 22:25; Lev 25:36) – it is a fee for USING someone else's money
  2. Be a blessing. Meet a need
  3. Be a giver - that's how a Christian community develops
  4. But also, make sure than if you lend someone money, you don't seek to make money off of his situation
  5. Think about how charge cards destroy homes – 20% interest
  6. Think about the loan sharks
  7. God's people can do much better!
- J. **Won't be Bought** (15:5)
1. No one should sway your opinion against an innocent person, no matter what you might lose out on
  2. Politicians and judges need this Psalm
  3. This was a good verse for

- a. Pilate – swayed by the Pharisees
  - b. Judas – swayed by 30 pieces of silver
  - c. Balaam – swayed by the blank check that Barak offered him to curse the nation of Israel
4. But would you be inclined to take a payment to destroy the life of someone else?
    - a. Many a woman has destroyed a man to get his money
    - b. Many a business has destroyed another business just to get their business
  5. You had better settle that you cannot be bought – no matter the price

#### IV. Conclusion -

- A. God has just described what Character is - What the perfect Man is like – Jesus Christ!
- B. These are NOT the qualifications for entering heaven!!!
- C. God here is simply saying that those who are going to live and abide in heaven with God one day (by the grace of God), should act, talk, react, and live the same way as Christ did.
- D. So, here are 10 things that must be a *natural* part of a Christian's life. If they are not, or are weak, then it must be repented of, and worked on.
  1. **Walk Uprightly** - being able to walk without guilt or shame
  2. **Work Righteousness** - Do what Jesus would do... Do what Jesus DID
  3. **Be Honest in Your Heart** – become real, through and through
  4. **Never Gossip** – never tear anybody down again!
  5. **Protect You neighbour** - saved or lost, friend, or foe!
  6. **Hate Vile People** - run as far away from them as possible
  7. **Honour Humble Believers** - those that fear the Lord
  8. **Keep Your Promises** - as a vow
  9. **Don't Lend Your Money with Interest**
  10. **Don't Ever be Bribed**
- E. That's a pretty good list!
- F. He that lives this way, will be very stable - unmovable
- G. If you have a problem in any one of these areas, you will certainly have a hard time enjoying reading your Bible and praying, and lingering around other believers, wouldn't you say?
- H. So, work on these ten things, and you will enjoy your Christianity, and your prayer time, and your Bible reading