

Psalm 15

No. 187

Introduction.

I. Recently I read this meaningful poem written by Owen Cosgrove, a gospel preacher in Waxahachie, Texas. It is entitled “Three Views of Life.”

One lived because he was afraid to die— No hope inspired his soul; Life in this world was all he sought; He had no other goal. He had no thought of Hell’s dark depths Or Heaven’s glory bright; He stepped from this life’s lowly scene Into eternal night .	Two died because he was afraid to live. Life’s heavy burden’s store Weighed greatly on his weary soul— ‘Till he wanted life no more. He took the life he could not bear And snuffed the candle out, And walked death’s valley, dark and deep, Because of fear and doubt.	Three lived because he sought life’s hope And thought of God’s great love, And treasured all Christ’s blessings here And Heaven’s home above. And when the death call bade his soul To Heaven’s golden shore, He went to live with God above In peace forevermore.
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A. May each of adopt this third view of life.

B. Those who trust God, Christ and the Holy Spirit have a life of blessings and peace forevermore.

II. Now I would like for us to study one of the great psalms of God. It is the great 15th psalm written by David. It is psalm loved by those who love God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

A. Though written long ago, it continues to encourage and bless those who read and obey its marvelous and timeless message.

B. This is a “didactic” psalm. The word “didactic” comes from the Greek word “didasko” and means “to teach.” This is a teaching psalm. It was written to teach the character we must have to worship God acceptably and have sweet fellowship with Him now and forever.

III. David penned these words.

PSA 15:1 O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. 3 He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change; 5 He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

I. **David’s Questions** - David begins this psalm by asking two questions addressed to the Lord (Jehovah).

A. **The first question is** “O Lord, who may abide in Thy tent (tabernacle)? (15:1a)

1. If taken literally, David is here speaking of the tabernacle - the house of God. But no one could literally take up residence in the tabernacle. He is speaking figuratively.
2. The inquiry could be paraphrased, “Who is permitted to have fellowship with God? Who can live in God’s presence. Who can go to heaven?”

B. **The second question is** “Who may dwell on Thy holy hill?” (15:1b).

1. This question is the same as the first question, but worded in a different way.
2. Who can fellowship with God? Who can live in God’s presence.?

II. **Description Of One Who Will Dwell With God** - In verses 2-5 these questions are answered.

A. David first answers them in a general way.

1. **“He who walks with integrity”** - He does what is right in God’s sight. He has godly character.
2. **“Works righteousness”** - He is one who keeps God’s commandments. (Psa. 119:176).

B. Description in specific terms (2b-5)

1. **“Speaks truth in his heart”**

- a. He is one who does not lie, but he always speaks the truth. (Prov. 12:22; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9).
- b. God’s people are people who speak the truth. They do not lie.
- c. It is sad that lying seems to be a way of life for many people. They lie as just a normal part of life. One survey indicated that:

91 percent of those surveyed said they lied even about matters they considered trivial.

36 percent said they lied regularly to parents.

75 percent said they lied to friends.

73 percent said they lied to spouses.

- d. **Lying can make us look really foolish.** A store manager heard one of his sales associates tell a customer, “No, ma’am, we haven’t had it for a while, and it doesn’t look as if we’ll be getting any soon.” Horrified, the manager came running over the customer and said, “We will have some soon. We placed an order last week.” Then the manager drew the clerk aside and snarled, “Never, never tell the customer we are out of anything-say we have got it on order and it’s coming. Now, what did he want? The clerk said, “Rain.”

e. **Here are some famous American lies.**

The check is in the mail. I’ll start my diet tomorrow. We service what we sell. Give me your number and the doctor will call you right back. Money cheerfully refunded. One size fits all. This offer limited to the first 100 people who call in. Your luggage isn’t lost, it’s only misplaced Leave your resume and we’ll keep it on file. This hurt me more than it hurts you. I just need five minutes of your time. Your table will be ready in a few minutes.	Open wide, it won’t hurt a bit. Let’s have lunch sometime. It’s not the money, it’s the principle. Bits & Pieces , December 9, 1993, pp. 12-13. This is a sure thing. Say I am not here. ‘Til death do us part I want tell a soul. No one will know. Everyone is doing it.
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- f. **Austin O’Malley** once wrote, “A lie has no legs. It requires lies to support it. Tell one lie and you must tell others to back it up. Stretching the truth won’t make it last any longer. Those who think it

permissible to tell white lies soon grow color blind.”

g. Here are 2 additional statements we should keep in mind and never forget. (Rev. 21:8, 27).

2. **“Does not slander with his tongue”** - He is one who does not slander others with his tongue.
 - a. He knows that slander is a cruel, vicious, abominable thing. It is utterly devastate, utterly destroy a person.
 - b. He heeds the warning of James. (Jas. 4:11).
 - c. He remembers the sobering words of Jesus. (Matt. 12:36, 37).
3. **“nor does evil to his neighbor”**
 - a. He loves his neighbor as himself.
 - b. He seeks the good of his neighbor, and treats him as he wishes to be treated.
 - c. The words of Jesus are on his heart and lips. (Matt. 22:39).
4. **“Nor takes up a reproach against his friend”**
 - a. He does not spread gossip against a friend nor will he listen to gossip.
 - b. He speaks good of his friend or he speaks not at all.
5. **“In whose eyes a reprobate is despised”**
 - a. He does not idolize the wicked. He does not have close association with them.
 - b. He walks in the way of righteousness. (Psa. 1:1, 2).
6. **“who honors those who fear the Lord”**
 - a. He holds in high esteem those who love God. He loves and honors and helps them.
 - b. He honors them because God delights in them. (Psa. 16:3).
 - c. He declares as the writer of the 119th psalm did. (Psa. 119:63).
7. **“He swears to his own hurt, and does not change”**
 - a. He keeps his word. He will not go back on his word. He will not go back on his word even if he has sworn to his own hurt.
 - b. **I knew a man who sold a piece of land for \$20,000.**
8. **“He does not put out his money at interest”**
 - a. The Jews were forbidden to charge interest to their poor brethren.

EXO 22:25 ¶ "If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him;

you shall not charge him interest.

DEU 23:19 "You shall not charge interest to your countrymen: interest on money, food, or anything that may be loaned at interest. 20 "You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countryman you shall not charge interest, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess.

b. The **New Testament does not forbid charging interest** to a brother or sister.

1) It does teach we are to be kind to our brothers. (1 Cor. 13:4).

2) It does teach we are to love our brothers even more than life. (1 Jn. 3:16).

3). All of this may not prohibit the charging of interest, but it certainly implies we must not take advantage of our brother.

9. **“Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.”**

a. He refuses to take a bribe against the innocent. He will not be a part of a **plan to pervert justice**.

b. The statement “every person has a price” may be true with most people, but is not true of the one who is in fellowship with God.

Conclusion.

I. David closes this rich psalm by saying, “He who does these things will never be shaken.”

A. “He will never be shaken” because he is privileged to draw near to God.

B. “He will never be shaken” because of God’s protection. (Psa. 46:1).

II. **This psalm affirms in a powerful way that it makes a difference how we live.** It affects our relationship and fellowship with God. It affects our relationship and fellowship with others.

A. Those who live uprightly with live forever with God.

B. Those who live uprightly with be blessed in this life. (1 Pet. 3:10-12).

III. **The New Testament teaches only those who accept Jesus can have fellowship with God.** We urge you to accept Jesus as the Son of God and your Savior. Be baptized and live for Him daily. Come as we stand and sing.

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