

# God's Holy Hill

## Psalm 15

### Introduction

1. The Books of Job, Psalms, and Proverbs are called Wisdom Literature.
2. Psalm 15 is devoted to a discussion of who will dwell in God's Holy Hill (Heaven).
3. This is an Old Testament version of the question asked by the disciples (Matthew 19:25; Mark 10:26; Luke 18:26).

### I. He that walketh uprightly (v. 2).

- A. The introduction to the Book of Psalms (Psalm 1) describes this upright walk.
  1. "Walk" denotes continuous action (1 John 1:7; 2 John 4).
  2. "Uprightly" denotes perfection or completeness. Only the Bible can make us upright (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).
- B. Isaiah 33:15 may be another definition of the upright walk.

### II. He that worketh righteousness (v. 2).

- A. This was echoed by Peter (Acts 10:34, 35). See Psalm 119:172.
- B. Is it not odd that some insist that we cannot be saved by works when the Bible so clearly teaches otherwise?

### III. He that speaketh the truth in his heart (v. 2).

- A. Speaking the truth is different from speaking the truth in your heart!
  1. What we say to everyone makes up our public speech (Colossians 4:6).
  2. What we say in our heart is another matter. Consider Hannah (1 Samuel 1:13).
- B. What we say in our heart (quietly—in our mind) reveals our true feelings about God, worship, service, Christianity, etc.

### IV. He that backbiteth not (v. 3).

- A. The word "backbite" means to censure; slander; reproach; speak evil of.
- B. The way we treat others affects our relationship with God (1 John 4:20; 1 Peter 3:7).

### V. He that doeth no evil to his neighbor (v. 3).

- A. "He not only avoids evil speaking, but he avoids also evil acting towards his neighbor. He speaks no evil of him; he does no evil to him; he does him no harm; he occasions him no wrong" (Clarke).

- B. Taking up a reproach carries the idea of receiving rumor, etc. See 1 Timothy 5:9.

VI. One in whose eyes a vile person is contemned (v. 3).

- A. “This man judges of others by their conduct; he tries no man’s heart. He knows men only by the fruits they bear; and thus he gains knowledge of the principle from which they proceed” (Clarke).
- B. “That is, who does not show respect to a man of base or bad character on account of his wealth, his position, or his rank in life” (Barnes).

VII. One who honors those who fear the Lord (v. 3).

- A. In contrast to honoring the wicked, the one who will dwell in heaven honors the God fearers.
  - 1. How will one who likes to conform to the world like heaven?
  - 2. Who should we enjoy sending our time with?
- B. Psalm 19:9 | 22:23 | 25:14 | 33:8 | 33:18 | 34:9 | 34:11 | 111:10

VIII. He that sweareth to his own hurt and changeth not (v. 4).

- A. Do you do what you say you’re going to do?
  - 1. “Do you need anything?” is an offer many times made to the sick.
    - a. Do you really mean what is implied in that offer?
    - b. Do you secretly hope that the sick person will not have any needs so you will not have to be inconvenienced?
  - 2. When you sign up for a job (i.e. Bible Bowl, Visitation Team, Bible Class Teacher), do you change your mind when things get tough? Did Jesus change His Mind when things got tough?
- B. Matthew 5:37 gives guidelines for communication. What does it mean when someone says, “I’ll do it if no body else will”?

IX. He that putteth not out his money to usury (v. 5).

- A. See Exodus 22:25 and Leviticus 25:35-37 for the laws on interest.
- B. There are things in life more important than money.
  - 1. Unscrupulous and unethical business practices are here condemned.
  - 2. Regardless of who one works for, God is our boss (Colossians 3:23).

X. One who does not take reward against the innocent (v. 5).

- A. Innocence is to be cherished.
- B. Too many are willing to hear accusations against those who have a good name. Why would that make anyone feel better?