

LORD, Who Shall Abide In Thy Tabernacle, Psalms Chapter 15

A Psalm of David.

Ps 15:1 "LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 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. 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."

When God brought Israel out of Egypt, he gave them the law commandments, and he gave them instructions to build the ark of the covenant, and the tabernacle that was to house it. This tabernacle was to be the focal point of Israel, to keep their mind on their God, who had delivered them from the bondage of Egypt. When the building of the tabernacle and its furnishings was completed, the presence of God in a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, abode upon the tabernacle. When the pillar of God's presence moved, Israel followed its leading. When the pillar of God's presence stood still, Israel stood still. Wherefore, Israel, who was God's chosen nation of people to be called by his name, had the very presence of God with them until they entered the land of promise. However, Israel did not abide in the tabernacle for it was moving about. Once the temple was built, the priest did abide in the temple, a prophetic picture of the church of Salvation by Grace.

As we consider this scene set before us, we see the prophetic picture of the coming of the age of salvation by grace, ushered in by the appearance of Jesus upon the earth. Remember, within the tabernacle, in the most holy place, there was the mercy seat, which is the picture of Jesus Christ, through whose mercy, eternal remission of the sins of God's people, and the promise of eternal life is given.

Remember, after their deliverance out of Egypt, the pillar of the presence of God led Israel to the land of promise. It was light by day and light by night unto them. What does that have to do with us today? The children of Israel being delivered out of Egypt, is a prophetic picture of our new birth in the age of salvation by the grace of God. We are delivered from under the bondage of our sins, and given power over our inherited sin nature, and given the light of Christ in the new birth, to lead and guide us along life's journey until our death.

Now, let's look at some definitions in **"LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"** Tabernacle is defined as ***a tent which is clearly conspicuous from a distance, a covering, dwelling place, a home.*** It comes from the primitive root word that means ***to be clear or to shine***. Just as the light, of the pillar of the presence of God, was always with Israel on their journey to the land of promise; so, the light of Jesus Christ shines in us, to one another, and to all the world around us. How do we know this to be true? Jesus told us in ***Joh 8:12 ¶ "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*** He also told us in ***Mt 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."*** Thereby, we see the definition of tabernacle, ***a tent which is clearly conspicuous from a distance, a covering, dwelling place, a home***, is a picture of the Church of Salvation by Grace, which is the light of the world, as well as each individual member thereof.

The Psalm gives the question King David is asking, and the answer, demonstrating its application to us today. **"LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"** The answer begins with verse 2 ***"He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."*** When born again, a picture of being brought out of Egypt, we become a part of, and should join, the visible church of salvation by grace. You are now on your journey to the eternal land of promise. Just as Israel had the pillar of the presence of God to lead them on this journey, we too have the visible presence of Jesus to lead us on this journey. How do we have this visible presence? First, you now are indwelt with the Holy Spirit presence of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world and gives you spiritual sight. Next, your inherited sin nature of the flesh is overruled by the new nature of Christ in you, by which you walk in righteousness and demonstrate the light of Christ in you. Next, God has given us the written testimony of Jesus Christ in the King James bible, which is be to us as King David said in ***Ps 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*** If we follow the leading of this light, we will be walking uprightly before the Lord: we will be working righteousness before the Lord: we will speak the truth in our hearts. What does it mean to speak the truth in our hearts? We are told what it is, and what it is not, in ***1Jo 4:2-3; 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of***

God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

David explains who the inhabitants of the tabernacle of God, and his holy hill, are to be, by giving us examples of what we are not to do. We are not to backbite with the tongue or castigate others with words of slander. In other words, don't spread gossip; we are not to be talebearers, but speak truth only. We are not to do evil to our neighbors, for when we do, we are demonstrating that we do not **"love thy neighbour as thyself."** We are not to bring reproach to our neighbors, which will bring shame upon them, but rather, we are to build them up in the Lord. If we are guilty of committing the **"not"** things David speaks of, we are not worthy to be in the tabernacle of God, in his holy hill, nor to be in the midst of the congregation of the Lord.

Those, **"In whose eyes a vile person is contemned;"** are the people of God, who hate the sinful actions of the ungodly, and do not assimilate with them. Those, who honor them that fear the Lord, are God's children fulfilling the commandment of Jesus in **Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."**

What is? **"He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not."** When we give our word to do something, even if it costs us dearly, we are to do it. We have an example, from the Christian aspect, in **Es 3:2 "And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence."** Mordecai remained faithful to God, and he did reverence to no man. This tells us today; we are to stand fast upon the truth of the word of God, and our belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ, not yielding to the ways of the world in living our lives.

5 "He that putteth not out his money to usury," Usury means to overcharge interest on borrowed money or take advantage of the poor. In the Old Testament, God commanded Israel to not charge any interest if they loaned to one another. This is treating the poor with true respect in their plight and helping those in need.

5 "nor taketh reward against the innocent." We are given insight to this in **De 16:19 "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous."** As God was directing Israel here to not take rewards, which would turn a blind eye to injustice done to the innocent; so, we too are charged. One of the ways that we are guilty of this today is; when a person speaks ill of another, who has not been proven guilty of the charges, and we turn a blind eye, and a deaf ear, and do not defend their honor, we have taken reward against the innocent. We have failed to fulfill the new commandment of Jesus Christ. **Joh 13:34 "That ye love one another; as I have loved you."**

5 "He that doeth these things shall never be moved." David is affirming to Israel, and to us, be completely faithful to God and all will be well. This is affirmed to us in **Ac 2:25-28; 25 "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance."** David affirms that God is his anchor, his strength, and protection. David proclaims: because God is my Saviour, when I die my body shall rest in hope of the resurrection of the dead in Christ, which will be manifested when the Holy One, Jesus Christ, comes the second time. David says that God has revealed this to him, and thus he rejoices. The same is true for us today, which truth we have with the affirmation of the New Testament scriptures.

In summation, King David, in this Psalm, has given us a prophetic picture of the church of Salvation by the Grace of God, and how it is to shine forth God's glory, by walking in true discipleship to Jesus Christ, on our journey to the eternal land of promise. This is what James was speaking of in **Jas 2:20 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"** If your walks do not reflect the values of Christ, you are yet dead.

You know that you have been born again; by the fact that you love the brethren, and you believe that Jesus Christ came to earth in a body of flesh. If you believe and have not made a public confession of faith, if you have not taken your cross of discipleship to Jesus Christ, by joining the Church of Salvation by the Grace of God, we urge you to do so with haste, as the scripture says in **2Co 6:1 ¶ "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"** Come forward and let the light of Christ shine brightly through you, and, thereby, bring glory and honor to the name of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May God bless us all in Jesus Christ, Amen!