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### *Who Shall Abide In Thy Tabernacle*

The psalmist asks, “LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?” (Psm 15.1). Apparently there are many who think that just anyone will be able to claim a place in the eternal home. The answer to this is found in the verses that follow.

**“He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.” (Psm 15.2).** This goes beyond the idea of being a good citizen, or that of being honest. There is an added element when we consider God as the one who will judge. To walk uprightly is to walk in such a way that God will approve of. To that end God has given us a book to guide us. The word, delivered by divine inspiration tells us that we all have sinned (Rom 3.23), and, because of this we all need to repent (Luke 13.3). Repentance means changing our lives to conform to God’s will, not changing God’s will to mean what we want it to (Rom 12.2). In this way we allow God’s word to dwell within us as Paul instructs us (Col 3.16).

**“He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.” (Psm 15.3).** One way that problems are perpetuated is when we foster a sense of resentment and anger with others. Striving to be pleasing to God we put these things away, make peace and learn not to cause harm to others. We learn to be angry and sin not (Eph 4.26) and to forgive others (Matt 6.14-15, Matt 18.21-35). One who seeks to be pleasing to God does not harbor a list of faults and wrongs that others have done to them and attempt to get back at others by discrediting them.

**“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.” (Psm 15.4).** When one encounters another who brings to their mind the fact that something they are doing is wrong, there is a tendency to hate the other. This is fueled by guilt and manifests as an accusation that the other thinks they are better than anyone else. A servant of God realizes that they are not perfect but may be able to help another see the error of their way and learn to be pleasing to God. James states, **“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (Jas 5.20).** One with the good and honest heart that the Bible speaks of will take to heart the need to change and do so. Otherwise, guilt will bring about hate, anger and conflict. There is also the added characteristic of commitment to truth and righteousness in that once a servant of God commits to something, they will meet that responsibility even it causes them loss, knowing that of the Lord we shall receive a blessing and justification.

Finally the Psalmist states, **“He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.” (Psm 15.5).** The servant of God is not motivated by the love of money (1 Tim 6.10) but is content with the things that we have (1 Tim 6.8). For many, rich and poor, there can never be enough material gain to satisfy. Such a state however alerts us to the need to rethink our lives and take inventory of that which is truly important. There are those who will betray others for the sake of their own gain. This is not restricted to wealth and possessions, but translates into the destruction of another’s character and reputation for their own satisfaction or that of others we may try to impress. It also rules out being caught up in the rumor or gossip mills that are the prevalent mode of socialization for most people. In doing these things we are established in mind and character as well as being justified in the sight of God. Where do you stand in comparison, not to the social norms, but in relation to God and His righteousness. **TLC**