

Sermon: How to Live in the Presence of God; *delivered by Rev. Eric Channing*, pastor of congregational care and family ministries, on February 16, 2020

Bible text explored: Psalm 15

¹O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
²He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
³who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
⁴in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
⁵who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What (v. 1) is the basic question David is raising in this brief Psalm?

The way David answers his own question (vv. 2-5a), Pastor Channing noted, isn't focused on knowledge of Scripture or a doctrinal belief. That means that God isn't satisfied with "Sunday only" Christians.

2. What lifestyle (v. 2) has God's welcoming approval?
3. Noah, Abraham, Job, and David qualified for this assessment. (See *Gen. 6:9; 17:1-2; Job 1:1; 2 Sam. 22:24.*)
How is living a blameless life different from being perfect?
What provision has God made to cover our shortcomings? (See *2 Cor. 5:21*)
4. What (vv.2-3a) allows our speech to be blameless?
How is what you are willing to listen to part of this trait? (See *Prov. 17:4.*)
5. What (vv. 3b-4a) makes us blameless in justice?
Have we condoned flagrant immorality so long as a cause we value is advanced?
6. What (v.4b) demonstrates whose integrity is blameless?
7. Financial blamelessness (v. 5a) is spelled out for an earlier era in *Exod. 22:25-27*. What would be some indicators of it today?
8. What promise (v. 5b) is made to those who adhere to such a pattern?
While this does not preclude adversity, what is the *internal* take away? (See *Prov. 10:9.*)
And what is the *eternal* take away? (See *1 Thess. 5:23-25.*)