

Psalm 26

1 A Psalm of David. Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. 3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. 4 I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. 5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. 6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: 7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. 8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

9 Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: 10 In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. 12 My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

Introduction notes:

1. “A Psalm of David” – The inspired heading (which is part of v.1), tells us that David composed this song.
- 2.
3. An inclusio [envelop]: (v.1 and v.11 – mine integrity) – David could have composed this song with the thought of the times when his integrity was questioned. (ex. 2 Sam. 4:1-12, the assassination of Ishbosheth).

Outline:

(Repeated Alternation)

- A. Prayer (v.1a)
- B. Plea (v.1b)
- A. Prayer (v.2)
- B. Plea (vv.3-8)
- A. Prayer (v.9)
- B. Plea (v.10-11a)
- A. Prayer (v.11b)
- B. Plea (v.12)

Observations:

1. David’s four prayer requests: Judge, Examine, Prove, and Try me. He invited God to investigate his code of ethics. David’s confidence of divine investigation was based on His trust in the LORD and His lovingkindness – not his own strength.
2. (v.2) “reins” (kidneys) and heart – stood for his inner most being. David’s conscience was Biblically trained (cf. Rom. 9:1). Our conscience can be “morally correct” but Biblically wrong – therefore we must train our conscience according to the word of God. (example, the death penalty issue – Gen. 9:6, etc.)
3. David is a separatist (vv.4-5). His separation was a part of his integrity.
4. Vain Persons, Dissemblers, Congregation of Evil Doers, and the Wicked are paralleled.
5. David’s love for the LORD endeared him to the LORD’s “altar” (The Tabernacle – the place of worship) – “the habitation of Thy House, and The Place...” (v.8). Christians are to love the place of worship (the church). It is not so much about the place as it is about the Lord’s presence when the baptized disciples assemble, that is important.
6. “sinners” are paralleled with “bloody men” (these would be Rechab & Baanah who killed Ishbosheth). David brought them to justice and did not take their bribes to further his kingdom.
7. (v.11) Again, David’s walk was that of integrity but he did not depend upon his walk but in the LORD’s redemption and mercy (Covenant Kindness).
8. (v.12) the congregations are the remnant, faithful groups of Israelite believers. David was among them.

Lesson: Let us walk with integrity of heart, as we depend upon the LORD.