

PSA15 - NOTES

Background:

1. Written by David.
2. Psalm 11 is a Man Psalm. It is a Hymn Psalm. It is a Zion Psalm.
3. The time or occasion of writing is unknown.
4. The Psalm is, though, one of great importance. Keil-Delitzsch called it "The Conditions of Access to God." G. Campbell Morgan called it "Jehovah's Friend Described." A Gospel Advocate article from 1972 called it "The Man God Approves." If Psalm 23 is the description of the Shepherd from the sheep's perspective, Psalm 15 must be considered the description of the sheep from the Shepherd's perspective.
5. The Psalm is easily divided. There are 2 synonymous questions in verse 1. 11 answers given in verses 2-5a. Finally, a comforting conclusion is found in the last part of verse 5.
6. Key words in this Psalm: Lord (Yahweh) 2x; Do/Does 2x. The Lord cares what we do!

VV. 1 - The Question

1. The question is asked of the Lord, for only He can answer this question. Man cannot prescribe what is good and proper, much less lead one to a right relationship with the Lord.
2. **Synonymous Parallelism** = Who may abide in Your tent - Who may dwell on Your holy hill?
3. Tent = Tabernacle.
4. Abide = Comes from the root for sojourn and CHALOT says it means to "live as a stranger; be a guest."
 1. Dwell carries a more permanent setting, as BDB says it is to settle down permanently.
 2. The tabernacle was a moving, temporary house. The temple in Jerusalem was a more permanent structure.
5. As the tabernacle is a figure of the church, there is great application.
 1. How do we come in to a right relationship with the Lord on this earth?
 2. How do we live forever with Him after this life is over?

VV. 2-5a - The Answer

1. v. 2 - Walk with integrity = Living "entirely in accord with truth and fact" (BDB) (Titus 2:11-12)
2. v. 2 - Works righteousness = what is right. Think right, speak right, prefer right actions and deeds (Acts 10:34f)
3. v. 2 - Speaks truth in his heart = "What appears in his lips is what the purity of his heart dictates." (Woods).
4. v. 3 - Does not slander with his tongue =
 1. Literally is "He does not put his foot upon his tongue."
 2. He refuses to kick someone like a football with his tongue. He will not be a backbiter, a whisperer, a slanderer, a gossip.
5. v. 3 - Does no evil to his neighbor = He won't hurt them with the tongue, NOR hurt them in any way!
6. v. 3 - Does not take up a reproach against his friend = He won't listen to people talk badly of others.
7. v. 4 - Despises reproaches = He has nothing to do with the works of darkness (Eph. 5:11; Psalm 1).
8. v. 4 - Honors fearers of the Lord = These are the ones he has fellowship with (Psalm 1).
9. v. 4 - Swears to his own hurt and does not change =
 1. His word is as good as any document he might sign.
 2. He keeps that word even at personal sacrifice.
10. Does not put out his money at interest =
 1. Interest = comes from the word for "bite."
 2. Put out = comes from the word meaning "to give or hand down."
 3. He is not a loan shark, one taking advantage of the disparity of others. He helps others, not for his own gain.
11. Does not take a bribe against the innocent = God approved men would never stoop so low.

VV. 5b - The Conclusion

1. No one will move him away. No one will dislodge him. He will not apostatize because doing these things will keep him on the straight and narrow path (Rom. 8:35-39)