Psalm 15: Expository Sermon

“The Character of the Godly”

Intro.

1. Looking at 2 Psalms.
   * + 1. The first one, Psalm 15, gives people and understanding of what is required of a Christian.
          1. How is he supposed to behave
          2. How is he supposed to react.
       2. The second one, Psalm 23, the most well-known of all Psalms.
          1. We will view it a little differently.
          2. That is for next time.
2. Jesus invites all—Matt. 11: 28-30, “28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
3. Salvation is your decision—Acts 2: 40, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.
4. The reward is great—Rev. 2: 10, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”
5. What then are the requirements of a Christian?
6. Two questions are asked by the Psalmist…
   1. Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle?
   2. Who may dwell in your holy hill?
7. The rest of the Psalm answers those questions.
8. Righteous and upright

***Vs. 2 “He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;”***

1. Walks Uprightly—
   * + 1. Prov. 10: 9, **“He that walketh uprightly walketh surely; But he that perverteth his ways shall be known.”**
       2. Prov. 28: 18, **“Whoso walketh uprightly shall be delivered; But he that is perverse in `his' ways shall fall at once.”**
       3. Isa. 33: 15, **“He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from taking a bribe, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from looking upon evil.”**
2. Works Righteousness—Jas. 2: 20-24; Rom. 10: 2-3
3. Speaks the truth—Eph. 4: 15, **“but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, `even' Christ.”**
4. Even if it hurts—
   1. 2 Tim. 4: 2, **“preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”**
   2. Titus 1: 9, **“that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers.”**
5. Tears down strongholds—2 Cor. 10: 3-5
6. Cares for those around him

***Vs. 3 “He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;”***

1. How he speaks—
   * + 1. Tongue,
          1. an unruly evil—Jas. 3: 8
          2. Ps. 140: 3, **“They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent; Adders' poison is under their lips.”**
       2. Won’t lie—
          1. Isa. 5: 20, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
          2. Prov. 17: 4, 19: 22, 30: 6
       3. Won’t waste words—
          1. Jesus said, Matt. 12: 36, **“And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”**
          2. Paul said, Col. 4: 6, **“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one.”**
       4. Won’t Gossip—1 Tim. 5: 13, “**And withal they learn also `to be' idle, going about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”**
2. Neighbor—
   * + 1. Good Samaritan—Lk. 10: 30-36
       2. Prov. 27: 10, **“Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; And go not to thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: Better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.”**
3. Friend—
   * + 1. Ps. 35: 14, **“I behaved myself as though it had been my friend or my brother: I bowed down mourning, as one that bewaileth his mother.”**
       2. Prov. 18: 24, **“He that maketh many friends `doeth it' to his own destruction; But there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”**
4. Brethren—Gal. 6: 2, **“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”**
5. Stands for Truth, speaks against falsehood

***Vs. 4 “In who eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the Lord; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change”***

1. Those Despised
   * + 1. None righteous—Rom. 3: 10-18
       2. Companions/Friends—1 Cor. 15: 33
       3. False teachers—Eph. 5: 11
2. Honor Brethren—
   * + 1. Ps. 111: 10, **“The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all they that do `his commandments': His praise endureth forever.”**
       2. Prov. 1: 7; 9: 10
       3. Gal. 6: 2, **“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”**
       4. Faithful unto Death—Rev. 2: 10; Jn. 15: 13, **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”**
3. Doesn’t look for dishonest gain or greed

***Vs. 5a “He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.”***

1. Usury
   * + 1. Definition—
          1. Interest with a loan
          2. Jews were forbidden, brethren
          3. Could ask interest of foreigners
       2. Part of Old Law
          1. Lev. 25: 36-37, **“Take thou no interest of him or increase, but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon interest, nor give him thy victuals for increase.”**
          2. Violated during captivity

Ezek. 18: 8, 13, 17

1 in 100/month or 12%

* + - 1. Dishonest Gain
         1. Bishops and Deacons—1 Tim. 3
         2. Lovers of Money—1 Tim. 6: 10
         3. Zacchaeus—Lk. 19: 2-8

1. Bribe
   * + 1. Definition—Money to avert punishment or pervert justice.
       2. Examples—
          1. Ex. 23: 8, **“And thou shalt take no bribe: for a bribe blindeth them that have sight, and perverteth the words of the righteous.”**
          2. Deut. 27: 25, **“Cursed be he that taketh a bribe to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.”**
          3. Eccl. 7: 7, **“Surely extortion maketh the wise man foolish; and a bribe destroyeth the understanding.”**
          4. Isa. 33: 15, **“He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from taking a bribe, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from looking upon evil”**
       3. Felix & Paul—Acts 24: 24-27

Conclusion

***Vs. 5b “He who does these things shall never be moved.”***

1. 1 Cor. 15: 58
2. Anchor—Heb. 6: 19
3. Less we drift—Heb. 2: 1