

Psalms 26 Under God's Searchlight

By Pastor Roy Hogan

A time in David's life when the nation was under God's judgment. Some believe God was judging Israel as a nation for Saul's actions against the Gibeonites. Many years have gone by and many of those who mistreated Gibeonites were dead. Yet, God gave David a chance to make right Saul's wrong and he did not do so. Judgment has fallen in the form of a plague.

26:1-2

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.

Examine me, judge me, prove me, try me. How many could come before God and make such a statement to God? *Examine* me. Remember the English exam and the chemistry exam in school?

Prove me is the language of the smelter. Put me under the fire test. Gold is purified by fire.

God, you may try (test) my reins (thoughts) *and* my heart. In other words, take a look at my thoughts and my feelings. Is there bitterness in your heart? Evil thoughts in your mind? Bad attitude? LORD, LOOK deep on the inside.

26:3

For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

My walk, my actions, you are welcome to look at them. Look on the inside, verse 1 and 2, and look on the outside, verse 3. What made David walk right? God's lovingkindness. If love can't straighten out our walk, there is no hope for a man. A walk based on feelings will fail. A walk based on looking at the life of others will fail. A life that requires money to go forward for the Lord will fail. The love of Christ constraineth me. It guides me, it directs me.

II Corinthians 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

26:4-6

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:

Whether or not you pass God's inspection determines who you company with. Many foolishly believe they can associate with the ungodly and still be approved by God. These verses discount this notion. Drive your automobile through a mudhole, then check it for cleanliness.

We cannot ask God for a full inspection of our soul and our actions if we are running with the wrong crowd. Good cannot approve of a life that runs with the wrong crowd. If you desire that your life be approved of God, practice SEPARATION. Not a popular thing to do. We live in a world driven by acceptance by society. Do you know anyone who lives for the sake of relationships? If all they could find to associate with was a ol' hound dog with fleas they would link up. We have never lived in a more social age. Yet it is all so artificial. Tweeter, face book, internet, cell phones. Few have time for God. People are so insecure. They have to have others to prop them up

Four kinds of people to stay away from:

* Vain- person whose life is empty, worthless, useless. No person is without value, but the LIFE THEY CHOOSE TO LIVE is empty and worthless.

* Dissembler- the person who lives a lie, a hypocrite, fake, cover-up

* Evil doer- one who is an enemy of truth and tries to tear down all good

* Wicked man- can refrain from sin and evil. The human nature is fallen descendent of Adam and of no good. Wicked man cannot win control over his fallen, sinful nature and is constantly involved in sin.

Notice verse 6--- what is the best ways to stay away from the wrong crowd? The way is to stay near God. How do we stay near God? We stay near him at the altar, that is, we abide with him through prayer.

A sinner may try to be morally good and stay away from wrong crowd...but a person right in their heart toward God stay away from wrong and hangs out with God.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD? Say NO to the world and YES to God

26:7-8

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.

IF God's searchlight fell on you...

* would God see a thankful person?

* one who tells of God's wondrous works?

* one who prefers to associate with God's people and abide in HIS HOUSE OF GOD. You mean I can only be near God in church? No, but you will not enjoy his presence *outside* until you get *inside*.

26:9-10

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.

Where you find evil, most commonly you will find money. Illicit drugs aren't given away: they are sold. Human trafficking is all about money.

When we stop to consider, we don't need the world. He is all I need and all you need.

26:11-12

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.

Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

David makes a vow unto the Lord in verse 11. He promises he will go with the Lord.

“Redeem me” is a powerful two-word phrase. I am dust of the earth. I am, within self, a failure. Apostle Paul stated in Romans chapter 7 “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing.” We must all say “amen.” But, when we as vessels of clay will allow ourselves to be yielded to the hands of the master potter

No man has ever yet stood approved in the eyes of God until he was made, redeemed, reshaped, by the hand of God.

I wish to live and dies among the *congregations*, that is, God’s dear children. Stay away from the or the