

Series: Psalms
Title: He That Does These
Text: Psalm 15: 3-4
Date: June 2, 2013
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Psalm 15: 1: LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

The question is, “LORD, who shall so-journ in your church here below. Who shall dwell forever in thy holy hill above?”

It is a reasonable question considering what we saw in Psalm 14.

Psalm 14: 1: «To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David.» The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

The Lord gives the answer. We saw the first three things were in the heart toward God.

Psalm 15: 2 He that walketh uprightly, in his heart. It means he that walks perfect, whole, and complete in heart without sin.

Psalm 15: 2: and worketh righteousness, in his heart. It means we must do that which is right and just according to God’s holy law, never once breaking the law of God, not even in the heart.

Psalm 15: 2: and speaketh the truth in his heart. It is to confess all mean liars and sinners and God alone as righteous and holy and the Savior of sinners.

Proposition: The only one that has done all of these things perfectly is the Lord Jesus Christ, so all those created anew by the Spirit of God, who trust Christ for our full acceptance with God shall be accepted of God in him by his righteousness, not ours.

Now today, we will look at the next two points of the Psalm to see that Christ is the only one who has also fulfilled these things.

Psalm 14: 3: He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. 4: In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD.

I. THESE ARE THINGS DONE TOWARD MEN. WE WILL PUT VERSE THREE TOGETHER. IT MEANS HE THAT LOVES HIS NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF SHALL DWELL WITH GOD.

Psalm 14: 3: He backbiteth not with his tongue against his neighbor. “Backbiting” is to slander behind their back, to discredit their name and reputation without them knowing it.

Psalm 14: 3: nor doeth evil to his neighbor. “Evil” includes anything that is unkind or hurtful or that may cause your neighbor trouble and sorrow.

Psalm 14: 3: nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. “Reproach” means to disgrace, to scorn, to upbraid. To not “take up a reproach” means you never listen to someone backbite your fellow man and do not repeat it, if you do hear it.

Remember, these things are not only toward neighbors who are kind to you, but it goes for those who work evil toward you.

Christ our Neighbor

Truly, Christ is the only one who ever walked this earth who was Neighbor to us. He did not slander anyone about our sins, though we had plenty of sin to speak of. Christ came to cover our sin and put them away—not to backbite. God the Son did not work evil toward us, only righteousness. He did not scorn us or upbraid us but he dealt graciously toward his people. And Christ is the Neighbor toward whom, we chiefly were backbiting, working evil, and take up a reproach against. Christ shows us who our neighbor is.

Luke 10: 25: And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

This question is similar to the question asked in our Psalm.

Luke 10: 26: He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27: And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28: And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

This answer is similar to the answer the LORD gave in our Psalm.

Luke 10: 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

In answering the question, we see what Christ our Neighbor did for us. Christ is the only one who ever “loved the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his strength, and with all his mind; and his neighbor as himself.”

Luke 10: 30 And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead.

God’s elect fell in our father Adam. We were stripped of all righteousness and left half-dead: spiritually dead within while our sinful, God-hating flesh lives but is dead in sin as well. Amazingly, Christ came down and took the place of his people. He allowed us to strip him and wound him and he laid down his life for his people. So Christ both came to save his people in the ditch of sin and he knows what it is to be the one in the ditch.

Luke 10: 31: And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32: And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side.

The law would not help us out of our condition, nor any amount of religion or religious works.

Luke 10: 33: But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, 34: And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

A Samaritan was one despised and rejected like Christ. This lawyer was a Pharisee. He especially hated a Samaritan and he hated Christ. That is why Christ used a Samaritan in this illustration. Christ had compassion on us from eternity and, in the fullness of time, came from heaven to where we are. And Christ comes to each of his children personally in the predestinated time of our new birth. He bound up our wounds, pouring in the oil of the Holy Spirit and the wine of his blood in the gospel. Christ himself is our rest like the wounded man was put on the

beast so he could rest. The Lord Jesus, the Head of the church, brings his weak child to his church and continues to take care of us.

Luke 10: 35: And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Christ has departed for now, but he provides his gospel preachers and as they take care of his sheep, Christ provides for them. His preachers take care of his people by preaching the gospel to them. Christ's servants will never be the loser for spending and being spent for the cause of Christ.

Luke 10: 36: Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?
37: And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Christ is the Neighbor, who alone has really shown mercy to those who are truly in need. When Christ has done this work for us, he bridles our fleshly backbiting tongue, he puts down the evil-working-man of our flesh, and he gives us a new heart to reign instead of that scornful heart.

Now, by God's grace, we love him who was Neighbor to us, who showed us mercy. In a much smaller way, we follow his steps, by loving our brethren, as well as other needy sinners who are yet fallen and robbed in the ditch of depravity. We show them mercy by speaking the truth of Christ instead of backbiting them or his holy name; we show them mercy by providing whatever they need to help them get under the sound of the gospel of Christ rather than doing evil to them; we love them by taking them up when they fall rather than taking up a reproach of scorn against them. All of this is because Christ was Neighbor to us.

II. HE WHO HAS SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT TO WITHHOLD HONOR WHERE IT IS NOT DUE AND TO GIVE HONOR WHERE HONOR IS DUE SHALL DWELL WITH GOD.

Psalm 15: 4: In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD.

In whose eyes" means in our judgment. "A vile person" is a wicked man. He may be a religious man or wicked sinner, but in either case, he is one who despises God and the accomplished salvation of a particular people by Christ Jesus. "To contemn" such a one is to give him no esteem whatsoever.

No Spiritual Discernment

While we were in the flesh, we had no right judgment of things because we had no spiritual discernment. We honored men who appeared outwardly wealthy but were inwardly vile haters of God and his people, proving it by their wicked practices. While the saints of God, who outwardly appeared vile in their poor clothes, but were inwardly new creatures in Christ, we held in contempt and despised. But the Spirit of God quickened us to life, creating life where there was no life, and gave us the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2: 15: But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16: For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Now, that our gracious God has brought us to rest in Christ and to see our own sinfulness, in our own eyes, it is our own vile man of flesh that we hold in utter contempt. And his dear saints who God used to give us the unsearchable riches of Christ are those we highly esteem. And we give Christ the highest honor over all.

Despising Those Who Despise God

Brethren, those who despise Christ are to be despised but we are to honor those that fear the LORD. Character is the object of our attention; persons and circumstances are of minor importance.

If a vile man holds an office of honor or authority we are to honor the office and obey. But we are not to admire him, nor to flatter him, no matter how wealthy or esteemed by natural men. We are not to value his company and conversation, nor approve of or comply with his practices. We are to judge him a most miserable wretch of a man for his rejection of Christ. One reason, being, we want no man to think God is pleased with him when as yet he is a vile God-hating rebel.

Honoring Them That Fear God

We are to honor and highly esteem those who fear the LORD. No matter how poor, or how despised by this world, that man who rejoices in Christ who accomplished the salvation of a particular people declaring God just and the Justifier is to be honored because he has the fear of God, knowing something of the truth that God is holy and will by no means clear the guilty. The man who denies his will, his works and himself to serve God and his people and the cause of Christ is to be highly honored because such a man has been given a fear of God in his heart and humbled by the effectual, irresistible grace of God.

The Lord Jesus held in perfect contempt those who rejected him for their vain show of religion but the harlots and publicans who came seeking mercy, he honored. The Spirit of God said through James,

James 2: 1: My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.
2: For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

One represents a man who is vile within wearing a gold ring and goodly apparel without. The other holy within, but poor and in vile raiment without.

James 2: 3: And ye have respect to him that weareth the [goodly] clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? 5: Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? 6: But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? 7: Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

The last verse says, “He that doeth these *things* shall never be moved.” All of these things are things we fail at miserably. Sin is mixed with all that we do. So though we “delight in the law of God after the inward man, we see another law in our members, warring against the law of our mind, and bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members.” (Rom 7: 22, 23) We dare not attempt to come to God thinking he will receive us because we have done these things as we ought—we have not. Instead, we depend entirely upon Christ Jesus our Lord in whom we have been made the righteousness of God. Christ is our Righteousness. It is in Christ that we have done these things perfectly and by whose faithfulness we shall never be moved. We will pick up here next time and take the remainder of the points in this Psalm.

May God give us grace to believe on Christ and to seek to walk as he walked when he did these things and justified his people from all our sins.

Amen!