

Complete in Christ

Psalm 26

I. Believers Examine Themselves

A. David was interested in God's evaluation and confidently sought to live as God required. "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." (PSALM 26:1)

B. Believers open themselves to God rather than relying on their own understanding and self-examination. "**Examine** me, O LORD, and **prove** me; **try** my reins and my heart." (PSALM 26:2) [*reins hylk kilyah emotions*] [*heart bl labe inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding*]

C. People lie to themselves—even believers; self-examination is a poor substitute for heavenly-examination. "The **heart is deceitful** above all *things*, and desperately wicked: **who can know it?**" (JEREMIAH 17:9)

D. Only Christ ever met God's standard; believers must seek that level of obedience even when they fail to reach it. "For **thy lovingkindness** is before mine eyes: and **I have walked in thy truth.**" (PSALM 26:3) "**Jesus saith** unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**" (JOHN 14:6)

II. Believers Separate from Sin

A. Believers separate themselves from bad influences. "**I have not sat with vain persons,** neither will I go in with dissemblers." (PSALM 26:4)

B. People who are happy in Jesus refuse to make common cause with wickedness. "**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the**

ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (PSALM 1:1)

C. A middle way is impossible. "*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*" (PROVERB 13:20) "*Be not deceived*; God is not mocked: for *whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*" (GALATIANS 6:7)

D. Avoid sin in the Biblical way. "I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and *will not sit with the wicked.*" (PSALM 26:5) "*I wrote unto you* in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet *not altogether with the fornicators of this world*, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, *if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*" (1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-11)

E. Remember the pattern Jesus set. "And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many *publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus* and his disciples: for there were many, and *they followed him*. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, *How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?*" (MARK 2:15-16)

III. Holiness Must Be Active

A. The believer seeks holiness through conversion—living in the gospel. "*I will wash* mine hands in innocency: *so will I compass thine altar*, O LORD:" (PSALM 26:6) [*compass bbo saw-bab turn around, change, transform*]

B. Getting right with God leads to making a testimony for Him. "That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and *tell of all thy wondrous works.*" (PSALM 26:7)

C. The gospel cannot be silenced. "And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, *if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*" (LUKE 19:40)

D. Believers love to be with God and His people. "LORD, *I have loved the habitation of thy house*, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." (PSALM 26:8) "*One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD* all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For *in the time of trouble he shall hide me* in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: *therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy*; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD." (PSALM 27:4-6)

E. Believers do not want to be in the wrong place when the end arrives. "*Gather not my soul with sinners*, nor my life with bloody men: *In whose hands is mischief*, and their right hand is full of bribes." (PSALM 26:9-10)

F. The faithful are always seeking more grace. "But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: *redeem me, and be merciful* unto me." (PSALM 26:11)

G. Christ came that new life might be possible. "*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us* from all iniquity, *and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" (TITUS 2:14)

H. The safe and stable place to live is at Jesus' side. "*My foot standeth in an even place*: in the congregations will I bless the LORD." (PSALM 26:12) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *I will fear no evil: for thou art with me*; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (PSALM 23:4)