

PSALM 26

Intro: The Psalm is usually understood as the plea of David after being falsely charged of wrongdoing. It has also been suggested that it might have been sung by worshipers entering the temple gate.

Verses 1-3 A prayer for vindication.

- A. Verse 1 Not a self-righteous plea, but expressing rejection of an actual, wilful crime, or something such as I Sam 18:6-10.
- B. Verse 2 God looks beyond external behavior. He tests the heart. I Sam. 16:7; I Ki. 8:39; Ps. 44:21; Jer. 12:3; Jer. 17:9-10 then Jn. 2:23-25. And while we're here look at Gen. 6:5 and 8:21 followed by Mt. 15:18-19.
- C. Verse 3 The Lord Jesus is always before us. He is always faithful in His love and promises for us .

Verses 4-5 He does not associate with the wicked.

- A. Recall Ps. 1:1. Cf. Lk. 23:50,51.
- B. How do family and friends, certain alliances, affect our faith? 2 Cor. 6:14ff.

Verses 6-7 Around the altar - could only approach the altar through the forgiveness of sin.

- A. "I wash my hands..." - a symbolic way of expressing innocense.
- B. See Ps. 73:13; Mt. 27:24.

Verses 8-10 Prays to remain separated from the wicked.

- A. David loves to be in God's "house," the Tabernacle, not because of its beauty but because it's the place where God's "glory dwells" (Ex. 40:34).
- B. John reminds us that Jesus is God's Tabernacle and we see God's glory in Him (Jn. 1:14). Glory - manifestation of God; brightness.

Verses 11-12 Our goal is to "bless the Lord."

- A. Integrity - honesty and unity with the Lord.
- B. "Level ground" - our level ground is God's Word.
- C. "the great assembly" - the church - standing with God's people.