

PSALM 26

Protestation of Integrity and Prayer for Protection.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy H. Enoch (2-16-94).
- B. A Psalm of David.
- C. Almost all critics accept the superscription that claims that this is a psalm of David. A few writers claim that “there is an innocence, integrity and sinlessness depicted in this psalm that never pertained to any mortal being, much less the Jewish King David.” But as Coffman points out, God describes him as a man of integrity (1Kgs. 9:4).
- D. The word “integrity” means wholeness, or innocence and often in the sense of sincerity rather than faultiness. God also called David (Ac. 13:22) and described Noah (Gen. 7:1). We need to be careful not to set standards that contradict those of God.
- E. This psalm can be divided into two sections:
 1. A plea for vindication (26:1-8).
 2. A plea to be spared the fate of evil-doers (26:9-12).

THE TEXT.

26:1 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me;
Test my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,
And I have walked in Your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men,
Nor will I go with pretenders.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
And I will not sit with the wicked.

6 I shall wash my hands in innocence,
And I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving
And declare all Your wonders.

8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
And the place where Your glory dwells.

9 Do not take my soul away *along* with sinners,
Nor my life with men of bloodshed,

10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme,
And whose right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
Redeem me, and be gracious to me.

12 My foot stands on a level place;
In the congregations I shall bless the LORD.

COMMENTS.

[v1,2] Critics who think that one is justified only if one does not sin, overlook the innocence of those whom God has forgiven. They argue that David must be speaking of a specific situation in which he was falsely accused and is maintaining his innocence. It seems to me that one who has been forgiven can make the same claims.

His certainty of his innocence is indicated by such expressions as “examine me,” “prove me,” and “try my mind and my heart” (26:2).

[v3-5] These verses give five reasons why David believes that God will vindicate him:

1. “Your loving kindness is before my eyes.”
2. “I have walked in your truth.”
3. “I have not sat with idolatrous mortals.”

4. "Nor will I go in with hypocrites."
5. "I have hated the assembly of evil-doers."

[v6] "I will wash my hands in innocence" seems to refer to the priests washing their hands before they approached the altar or as David worshiped.

[v7] This verse speaks of giving thanks and "telling of all your wondrous works." We need to be constantly reflecting on all the blessings that God gives us each day and love to assemble for worship.

[v9,10] David has given several descriptions of evil men in this psalm. Verse 10 describes them as having a "sinister scheme," and "whose right hand is full of bribes." Bribes are often condemned in the scriptures and were common among men in authority to pervert justice.

[v12] "My foot stands in an even place;" seems to refer to the advantage of level ground in a mountainous country that was rocky and treacherous. They must have often longed for level ground for a battle. Spiritually, we should seek the level ground of truth and sincerity, rather than the treachery of deceit and falsehood.