

# Psalm 15

**We have this short Psalm guidelines to living a life that will be acceptable to our Creator God and allow us to be in His presence.**

**Psalms 15:1-5** [King James] *“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.”*

**When we read this list of conditions what stands out is we are to consider if we really are what we profess to be when we claim to be a Christian.**

**Are we really living within the will of the Creator God?**

**Acts 13:22** [NIV] *“After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”*

King David who was writing this **Psalm 15** knew and was practicing what is listed within it, or at least was striving to live such a life.

**Uprightly** – Hebrew “*tâmîym*” meaning complete and sincere.

**2 Samuel 22:23-25** [King James] *“For all his judgments were before me: and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also **upright** before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.”*

Part of the Psalm of David’s thankfulness for God’s powerful deliverance from Saul, [**Psalms 18:23-25**].

**Job 12:1-4** [NIV] *“Then Job replied: ‘Doubtless you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things? I have become a laughing-stock to my friends, though I called upon God and he answered, a mere laughing-stock, though righteous and blameless!’”*

The same word is used by Job of himself and confirmed by God, [**Job 42:7-8**].

The same Hebrew word is used in other scriptures that reveal how important this attitude of mind acted out in life is to our Creator God, [**Psalms 37:18-19; Proverbs 11:20; Proverbs 28:10, 18; Psalms 84:11**].

**Worketh righteousness** – Hebrew “*tsedeq*” meaning clean and just.

Greek “*dikaiōs*” meaning innocent, just and holy.

Note it says “*worketh*” showing that this is **not** just a state of mind or character but what is worked out in our relationship with God and other human beings.

**Daniel 4:27** [NIV] *“Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”*

**This righteousness is the result of repentance and brings a new way of living our life.**

**Hosea 10:12** [NIV] *“Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.”*

Having received forgiveness for our sins we are to actively **“break up your unploughed ground”** that is seek **God’s guidance continually from His Word, the Christian Bible, in parts we have not read and meditated on before.**

**Matthew 5:10** [NIV] *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Even if seeking to live a righteous life brings persecution we should **not** stop.

**Matthew 5:20** [NIV] *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

**The “righteousness” of the scribes and Pharisees was just an outward show and the use of certain pious words, not a life of righteous works to help other human beings.**

**Ephesians 6:14** [NIV] *“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,”*

The breastplate protected **only** the front of the soldier, if we turn our back on righteousness we lose all our protection of our heart, from God.

**Philippians 1:10-11** [King James] *“That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”*

The *“fruit of righteousness”* refers to the *“fruits”* of an active Holy Spirit in our lives, [**Galatians 5:22-23**]. Note the word *“sincere”* in **verse 10**.

**1 Timothy 6:10-12** [NIV] *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

**Note the forceful verbs that Paul uses to describe the righteous Christian life, “flee, pursue, fight, take hold.”**

**Christianity is not a passive religion but an active faith, obeying God with courage and doing what is right.**

**Speaking the truth** – note it does not just say we should know the truth but should speak it. To speak it *“in His heart”* means that truth is the driving force of our life.

**John 17:17** [King James] *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is where we find the truth, especially in the words and life of our Saviour Jesus Christ, [**John 14:6**].

**John 8:31-32** [King James] *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

It is the disciples of Jesus Christ who know the truth and trusting in His promises will set us free from sin and eternal death, the end product of sin, [**James 1:13-15**].

The Hebrew word translated “*truth*” is “*emeth*” meaning stability, assurance, established, faithful.

The Greek word translated “*truth*” is “*alēthēia*” meaning not concealed, a proven fact.

**No backbiting** – the Hebrew word used is “*râgal*” meaning to slander, or tale bearer and has a background of a person who spies things out to spread them abroad, [**Leviticus 19:16**].

**Neighbour is not restricted to the person next door but includes anyone we meet on a day-to-day basis.**

“*Takes up a reproach*” can mean either to “*cast a slur*” or “*pick up something discreditable*” then to pass such knowledge on to other people.

The whole verse enlarges on the theme of **Proverbs 10:12**.

The same attitude of mind that incurs God’s wrath is among other reprobate attitudes, [**Romans 1:28-32**].

An attitude of mind can even be found in “*Christian fellowships*,” [**2 Corinthians 12:20**].

**Clear cut allegiance** – wickedness is despised by a true child of God wherever it is found, in other people or in themselves, [**Psalms 101:3-5; Proverbs 8:7; Romans 7:15**].

**2 Peter 2:7-8** [Amplified Bible] “*And he rescued righteous lot, greatly worn out and distressed by the wanton ways of the ungodly and lawless, for that just man, living there among them, tortured his righteous soul every day with what he saw and heard of their unlawful and wicked deeds.*”

Righteous lot is a good example of the attitude of mind that is mentioned in this Psalm, his allegiance was totally towards God’s righteous way of life.

“*Honour them that fear God*,” the New Testament commands this, especially those who instruct us in God’s way of life, [**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7**].

**His dealings are honourable** – “*swareth to his own hurt.*”

If we make a promise we must keep it even if it costs us far more than we thought in time and money.

We are not to extract profit from lending money to the poor or to other Christians, [**Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36; Proverbs 28:8**].

**Luke 6:34-35** [NIV] “*And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners’, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*”

Jesus Christ took this lending to others still further by even **not** expecting to receive what we lend back.

Living such a life is showing our total trust in our Saviour and Creator God.

The end result will be a life that is founded on a rock, [**Matthew 7:24-25**].

The Hebrew word translated “*moved*” is “*môwt*” meaning shaken, to fall, driven out of course or fall into decay, all such things will **not** be a part of a person’s life who has these attitudes.