

Sunday Night Message

May 12, 2013

Psalm 26 – I Have and I Will

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 26

Introduction

This Psalm is another one of the Psalms of David. Possibly, it was written during the times that King Saul was pursuing David; or possibly it was at the time that his son Absalom was in rebellion.

This Psalm has an interesting structure. You will notice often the phrases, “I have”, and “I will” repeated over and over again throughout the Psalm.

I have walked in integrity (v. 1); I have walked in truth; I will walk in integrity (v. 11)

I have trusted (v. 1); I shall not slide (v. 2)

I have not sat (v. 4); I will not go (v. 4)

I have hated (v. 5); I will not sit (v. 5)

I will wash (v. 6); I will compass (v. 6)

I have loved (v. 8); I will bless (v. 12)

I David Asks the Lord to Examine, Prove, and Try Him. (v 2)

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting." (Psalms 139:23-24)*

The word “examine” means to scrutinize, or to look closely at something.

*"The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes
behold, his **eyelids try**, the children of men." (Psalms 11:4)*

The word prove means to examine, tempt, or to put to the test:

*"And they **tempted** God in their heart by asking meat for their lust."
(Psalms 78:18)*

*"**Prove** thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink." (Daniel 1:12)*

The word "try" is the word that is used to refine metal.

*"And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely **purge away** thy dross, and take away all thy tin:" (Isaiah 1:25)*

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:7)

Notice that he asks God to do this to both his reins and his heart.

The word translated "reins" is sometimes used for the word "kidney", the physical organ. It is used here and in many other places to refer to the seat of emotion and affection.

"Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins." (Psalms 7:9)

The word heart can be used to refer to almost the same thing, but it can also refer to the soul and mind.

So what is David asking here?

He is asking God to take a close look at his mind (his thinking), and his emotions (his attitude, his will). He wants God to test them, and to try them.

Illustrate – heart problems – the doctor will look, and he will send you for a battery of tests, and then he may try you (stress test).

David was asking for a thorough examination.

The Word of God and the Spirit of God examine us as well:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and

intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13)

II David Acknowledges His Love for the House of God (vs. 8, 12)

The House of the Lord in the Old Testament was the temple. Notice v. 12 speaks of congregations (plural). David loved the Lord's house – the temple; but he also loved to be with God's people; and he testified (blessed the Lord) wherever God's people were gathered.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

III David Asserts His Disdain for the Works of the Wicked (vs. 4 – 5; 9 – 10)

Psalm 1

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." (Psalms 101:3)