

- 1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*
2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. (Psalm 15:1-2)

The question put is of monumental importance. “God’s Tabernacle” and “thy holy hill” are figures of speech meaning the dwelling place of God Himself. The marginal reading for “abide” as to sojourn or visit. The question is, then, twofold. Who will qualify to visit the Lord, come into His presence, to worship Him in Spirit and in truth?” And who will permanently dwell with Him? Who will be soundly and permanently united with the Lord in eternal salvation of the soul?

Is this not a question that is often posed? Many religions offer a sort of salvation, reconciliation with God. Which is the right one? A bit of caution here: The psalmist is not telling us the way of salvation, but the marks of those who are saved. None are truly saved who have not these marks. Let us consider them.

The man who dwells with God walks uprightly. He behaves himself in an orderly fashion. He is not riotous, rebellious or unruly. He submits himself to authority wherever it appears. He is honest and above board. He is not pretending to be going about one thing while secretly scheming to pull off something entirely different. He lives by right moral and godly principles.

This man also speaks the truth in his heart. He is not as the fool in the previous Psalm, who lies in his heart and tells himself there is no God. He allows only the truth to persuade his mind and heart. He candidly faces the truth of a holy God and his own sinful life. He does not kid himself.

He who thus speaks the truth in his heart and faces the facts will surely realize that he is too wicked and God is too holy for him to come before God. He needs an intercessor, a mediator, who can bring him to God and cleanse him from his sins. Those who truly seek such a mediator find one in God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-C.M.