

- 1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David.>> LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- 4 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.
- 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. (Psalm 15:1,4-5)

The justified man is being described. We are not being told *how* a man is justified, but the character and marks of those who truly fellowship with God.

The person who has come to know God has found something far more precious than money or the value of this world's goods. He values God's approval, God's pleasure more than all else. Such a person must carefully weigh his every decision and every commitment.

Fools often make snap decisions and regretfully pay the cost of their folly later. Covetous people carefully weigh every fact and decide according to what will profit them most. If, then, it turns out that they have made a wrong commitment, they will hedge and stall, and, if at all possible, back down on their word. Godly people commit their works and ways unto the Lord. If they then have made a costly decision, they will stand by it. Regardless of how it hurts, they will not change. Small wonder, then, that there was a time (when it was not so easy to "join a church") when church membership in good standing was all the credit reference a man needed!

Loan sharks are not Christians. Those who provide a service for business and personal undertakings by legitimate and reasonable loan arrangements are not included in this censure. But the person who deliberately preys upon the financially distressed, gouges him with exorbitant interest, legally robs him, steals his property, is a thief of the worst sort. He is a godless pagan who despises men and worships money. And although he may have a fine standing in one of the "steeple-houses" that call themselves churches today, may buy the praise of men with his ill-gotten gain, god will surely say to him, "Depart from me, you wicked worker of iniquity, I never knew you."

The righteous man cannot be bribed to pervert justice. He will not enrich himself at the cost of an innocent party. Those who love God and please God love their neighbors as much as they love themselves. They do to men as they would have men do to them.

Our time would be well spent if we should reflect upon these marks of the just.

-C.M.