

PSALMS FOR EVERY DAY
Psalm 14 (also 15, 53, 139, 19, 30, 130)
“When I Stand Before My Holy God”

Lesson #1

INTRODUCTION: There is a certain measure of humility and modesty that is appropriately when we stand before someone who is far greater: the first year piano student and the great composer; the 5th grade math student and the well-known Mathematics Professor; and the youth who tinkers with cars and the auto racing mechanic. Do we have that sense of awe as we stand before our holy God? Or have we lost a bit of that sense? The psalm-writer helps us renew that sense of humility as we STAND BEFORE OUR PERFECT GOD!

AUTHOR: With the exception of Psalm 130, all of those included above were written by King David, one who knew of both his sin before God but also God’s mercy. Appreciating God’s mercy and forgiveness begins with recognizing our need as did David.

PSALM 14

READ THE ENTIRE PSALM/NOW READ PSALM 53

1. How are the two Psalms similar? Different?
2. What comment does verse 1 make about the atheist? See also, Psalm 19:1 and Hebrews 3:4
3. How does God describe the deeds of people? See also Isaiah 64:6
4. How does he make this “all inclusive”? See also Romans 3:23
5. What does God see when he looks at people? Esp, verse 2 What is lacking?
6. What is the “fate of the fool”? verses 4-6
7. What is the mark of the evildoer’s sin? Verse 4
8. In what way does the Lord provide assurance in verse 5?
9. What is meant by “frustrates the plans of the poor”? verse 6
10. What assurance is again given in verse 6?
11. In what way is verse 7 a beautiful prayer?
12. How is the word, “salvation”, related to the name “Jesus”? See also Matthew 1:21
13. What is the source of salvation?
14. Who is meant by Jacob and Israel?
15. What is her source of joy? What is our source of joy?

PSALM 15

1. What does this Psalm add to the progression of thought? Especially verse 1

2. How is the righteous one described in verse 2-5?
3. How do we measure up to this standard?
4. What does this say of the security and blessedness of God's people?

PSALM 139

1. What does this remind us of the intimate knowledge of God? Verses 1-4
2. In what way do verses 7-10 serve as a comfort but also a warning?
3. Are verses 11 and 12 set forth as warning or comfort?
4. How does the Lord describe his intimate involvement in our forming in the womb? Verses 13-16
5. How are the thoughts of the Lord precious? Verses 17 and 18
6. Why is the prayer in verses 19-22 appropriate? In which petition do we pray for the same thing?
7. What type of testing is spoken of in verses 23-24?

FOR DISCUSSION: HOW DO WE RESPOND WHEN WE STAND BEFORE OUR PERFECT GOD? IS THERE A DANGER OF FEELING SELF-RIGHTEOUS? OF FEELING TOTALLY UNWORTHY? WHAT IS THE ANSWER IN EACH CASE?