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## Psalm 26

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 26.

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### Topics.

- Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity.
- I will not sit with the wicked.
- I love the LORD'S house and where his glory dwells.
- Do not sweep me away with sinners, or with bloodthirsty men.
- I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

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### PSALM 26:1-3

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A Psalm of David.

#### **Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have Walked in My Integrity.**

- **Psalm 26:1-3:** Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. <sup>2</sup>Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

Here is true honesty in prayer and true faith and the cry of a man who truly seeks to live a lifestyle that honours God. How many prayers are prayed with this cry? David has a clear conscience, he has kept his integrity and faith without wavering, but he knows that within all our corrupted fallen bodies there resides sins we are as yet unaware of (i.e., passive anger, pride, selfishness, avarice, impatience, an excessive love for materialism or a lack of love toward our neighbour etc.). The deep desire of every faithful brother and sister in Christ who knows the love of Christ and the grace of God is to stand perfect before God. Clearly this is an impossible ideal, because of the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within our corrupted fallen bodies, but that is no excuse not to endeavour to walk in the most holy way we are able and according to what we consciously know to be the right way. Jesus didn't surrender his life to the bloodstained cross of Calvary so we could attain to God's Holy perfection, but because we couldn't. If any of us could attain to the glorious state of living a lifestyle free of sin Christ died for no reason, but he did call us all to live a lifestyle that honours his heavenly Father. Your steadfast love is before my eyes: the most used and most common statement throughout all David's Psalms is, "The steadfast love of the LORD." David's greatest desire was to always be filled with the love of God. Should teacher desire to motivate those under their authority, the way to do it is not by imposing laws and rules upon them, but by bringing them into a closer relationship of love with the Lord Jesus Christ.

People will not climb the highest mountain and swim the deepest sea to keep a set of rules, but they will for love.

**I will Not Sit with the Wicked.**

- **Psalm 26:4-5:** I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. <sup>5</sup>I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

These verses do not mean that David will not mix with all who do not believe, there are many men and women who have never had the opportunity to hear the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ who have kind and compassionate hearts and who give their lives to helping others. The people David has in focus are:

- People of falsehood: those who deliberately lie and deceive.
- Hypocrites: those who pretend to be righteous, but live a totally different life when no one can see them.
- Evildoers: those who consciously and deliberately deny the existence of God, deny Christ and aggressively persecute his followers and who deliberately inflict harm and hurt upon others.
- The wicked: those who steal, damage other people's property and commit acts of violence.

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**PSALM 26:6-8**

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**I Love the LORD'S House and where His Glory Dwells.**

- **Psalm 26:6-8:** I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD, <sup>7</sup>proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds. <sup>8</sup>O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Once again, we see the true heart to the faithful who know the love of Christ and God's grace, there is no greater desire dwelling in the heart than to be abiding in the House of the Lord where Jesus and God's glory is. The House of the Lord in focus is not the established churches built of stone and by man's hands, but God's dwelling place in heaven and eternity it refers to the New Jerusalem spoken of in the following verses:

- I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rev. 21:2-4).

David's words, "I love the habitation of your house," is not about the building no matter how beautiful it is, the idea is that more than anything David desires to be in the company of the Messiah the Christ, forever. The glory of the building is of course added value, but the treasure is being with Christ. When a man loves a woman he does not care where he is, he is just happy to be with her, this is how David and all who know the love of Christ feel toward their King and Saviour.

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**PSALM 26:9-10**

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**Do not Sweep Me away with Sinners, Nor with Bloodthirsty Men.**

- **Psalm 26:9-10:** Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, <sup>10</sup>in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

The word sinners in this context does not embrace all sinners if that was the case no Christian could ever have contact with the lost and they would have no hope of hearing the Gospel. David's words, "Do not sweep my soul away with sinners," means do not sweep me away with those who break the law and act corruptly.

- Bloodthirsty men: obviously refer to murders and warmongers.
- Evil devices: refers to those who plot and plan evil, like the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, the Pharisees and the scribes) who behind closed doors plotted the murder of Jesus.
- Those who take bribes: refers to those who twist and pervert justice for money and to religious leaders who twist and pervert the Scriptures to appeal to the secular world so they can grow a bigger religious empire for themselves.

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## PSALM 26:11-12

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### **I shall walk in my Integrity; Redeem Me, and be Gracious to Me.**

- **Psalm 26:11-12:** But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. <sup>12</sup>My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

In the book of Chronicles, it is written:

- For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. (2 Chron. 16:9)

And Jeremiah wrote:

- I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. (Jer. 3:15).

Next to David's greatest passion to always be filled with the steadfast love of the LORD is his heartfelt desire to walk before the LORD with integrity. Integrity embraces, faithfulness, honesty, truthfulness, reliability, steadfastness and trustworthiness. Truly David had his shortcomings, but when made aware of them, by conviction of conscience or by others he deeply repented. It is a principal of life that the greater the integrity of heart the greater the sorrow and the heartfelt repentance before God. Some might say, "If we can repent and be forgiven why not do as we please?" The answer to this is simple, we may fool man, but God perceives the true motive of the heart, He cannot be fooled, and will judge each of us according to our honest heart motivation. David fell to the weakness of the flesh and the beauty of a woman, but when confronted he was broken before God, smashed crushed and deeply hurt he had been such an offence to God and caused so much harm to others.

**From this Psalm we see that David hated:** to be in the company of hypocritical men who tell lies and do harm and hurt to others and who commit acts of violence and damage other people's property or cause them loss. All of these acts are acts against the law of love and any act that is done against love is done against God and done against Jesus command to "love your neighbour as yourself" meaning do-good to others and not harm.

John in his letters wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth any action that is done against love is and action done against God and any hurtful word spoken against another is also spoken against God. This is not a prayer of repentance, but of thanksgiving and earnestly asking God to reveal to him any hidden sin he is unaware of the five steps of his prayer in this Psalm are:

1. Confessing and acknowledging his faults.
2. Pleading his case and asking the LORD to vindicate and justify him.
3. Mentioning the good things, he has done and what he hates.
4. Declaring his love and faithfulness to the LORD.
5. Exalting the LORD for his blessing, greatness and steadfast love.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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