

What Have You Done? Psalm 15

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

How would your _____ describe you? Would they say you were a _____ person or a rascal? Today we're asking people to _____ at themselves to see how they've lived. When life is over, we'll look back at our lives wondering what we've done that _____. Did we please the _____ or did we please ourselves? Were we a _____ to the people around us or did we bring them _____? Many spend their entire lives pursuing _____ paths, but the one who is faithful to God pursues righteousness. What have you done with your life? What will people _____ about you?

Many Christians are content to be Christians in _____ only. They want to wear the name, but they aren't willing to take their _____ seriously. My friend, Steve Higginbotham, recently wrote about some misplaced _____ of people today. He said, "We want a Savior, but we don't want a _____. We want a crown, but we don't want a _____. We want a _____, but we don't want to sow the seed. We want to go to Heaven, but we won't go to _____. We want to grow spiritually, but we don't want to feed on his _____. We want Hollywood to 'clean up its act,' but we don't want to stop _____. We want the _____ to pray, even in school, but we don't want to pray. We want the Ten Commandments posted, but we don't want to _____ by their moral principles. We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor _____. We want to die the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the lifestyle of the _____." People want to go to _____, but they don't live as Christians should. What about you? What have you done with your life?

Our reading today comes from Psalm 15.

The Bible gives some interesting assessments of people's lives. Genesis 5:24 says, "Enoch _____ with God, and he was not, for God took him." We learn from Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see _____, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having _____ God." Walking with God pleases Him. James 2:23 calls Abraham "the _____ of God." Are you God's friend? God said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my _____, who will do all my will" (Acts 13:22). Are you doing all the _____ of God?

Then, there is the evil King Jehoram who _____ all of his brothers with a sword. When he died, 2 Chronicles 21:20 says of him, "And he departed with no one's _____. They

buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.” In the New Testament, we find Judas Iscariot, who stole money from the money bag and _____ the Lord Jesus with a kiss. We also find Demas. Though Demas had once been faithful, 2 Timothy 4:10 says, “For Demas, in _____ with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.” Were you once faithful, and have you _____ away from the Lord? The Bible teaches that we’ll be _____ according to our works, whether good or bad. Jesus promised, “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person _____ to what he has done” (Matthew 16:27). Jesus said, “And all the churches will know that I am he who _____ the mind and the heart, and I will give to each of you according to your _____” (Revelation 2:23). How we live matters. Our works tell what’s in our hearts, and the Lord will judge us by whether we have _____ Him or not.

The first thing God looks for in people is whether they _____ (Hebrews 11:6). A faithful Christian believes the _____ and knows the love of God. His faith is not merely a belief, but is a way of _____. He takes Whom he believes and what God _____ seriously.

There are different _____ of faith. Some people believe intellectually, they say God exists and His way is right, but their belief doesn’t influence their _____. They are believers in their _____ but not in their _____. God wants our faith to be _____ than that. He wants us to believe on the involvement level, that is, our faith should impact how we live and our _____. We ought to do more than just believe Christ Jesus rose from the _____. We live in obedience to Him, because we understand that He will _____ us up one day. We ought to do more than believe that Jesus is Lord; we ought to _____ Him as our Lord.

Unless our faith matters enough for us to _____ it, it’s not any good. We must _____ on what we believe. We must move from a _____ faith to a _____ one. **Read James 2:14-16.** We want a living, active faith that makes a _____ in our own lives and blesses the lives of others.

Someone asks, “Aren’t we saved by faith _____?” While it’s true that we’re saved by faith, to talk about “faith alone” is to talk about a _____ faith. **Read James 2:18-19.** Saying that you have faith, but are unwilling to demonstrate that faith makes you no better than the _____ who believe so strongly that they shudder at the thought of God. What are you doing with your faith? **Read James 2:20-24.** When God tested Abraham, Abraham demonstrated his faith by _____ his son Isaac upon the altar. Of course, God didn’t allow him to slay his son; God was _____ him to see if he would _____ Him. Many years earlier, God told Abraham to _____ his home and family and go to a strange place. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham _____ when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Faith obeys! A dead faith _____ a good game, but a living faith _____ what it believes.

John the Baptist said, “whoever believes in the Son has _____ life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the _____ of God abides on him” (John 3:36). God never speaks approvingly of a faith that will not _____. The disobedient can expect one day to see the _____ of God. A believer who will not obey will never enjoy God’s _____. **Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.** God loves everybody, but His grace and favor is extended to those who _____ and _____ Him.

Because of this, we must _____ from being spectators to being participants. Some say, “I love Jesus, but I don’t want to be in the _____.” The church is the _____ of Jesus, the _____ of Christ. If you love and want to be _____ Jesus, then you must be _____ of His church. The church was and is His idea and it’s His _____. Faith in Christ and worshiping with the church is not like going to a basketball game where we can sit in the stands and _____ others on the floor. God _____ each of us to sing, to pray, to listen to the Bible, to commune with Him in the Lord’s Supper, and to support the work of the church. Living for God means I am _____ producing fruit every day, working for His cause, carrying my cross, sharing the gospel, and blessing the lives of other people. The Lord Jesus said, “By this is My Father glorified, that you _____ much fruit, and so _____ to be My disciples” (John 15:8). Don’t _____ your faith, live it, live it out every day.

Ralph Grant in his book, Letters to the Seven Churches, told the story of the Franks during the Dark Ages. When the gospel came to Northern Europe, large numbers of these savage tribes were being _____. These people had been warriors for generations, so teaching them the ways of _____ was difficult. They were not _____ they wanted to give up their savage fighting, so they went into the waters of baptism holding their battle-axes up out of the water. They would say, “This _____ has never been baptized!” They were willing to make a commitment to Christ in some things but would not _____ their fighting.

Of course, one is either _____ baptized, or he’s not really baptized at all. There’s no such thing as baptizing “everything but the hand.” God only accepts us on His _____; and He will not accept anything less than a _____ commitment. God doesn’t want some parts of you; He wants _____ of you. This is one reason baptism into Christ is an immersion of the _____ person in water; baptism is a total commitment to God. The whole person is _____ and raised with Christ, the whole person has all his sins _____, and the whole person rises from the water to walk in _____ of life (Romans 6:4).

We sing the hymn, “All to Jesus I Surrender.” Have you _____ surrendered all to the Lord Jesus? Are you totally committed? Listening to the way some Christians talk, I wonder if their _____ were ever baptized? Some continually _____, and others constantly _____. Some tell dirty jokes, while others take the name of the Lord in _____.

Christians _____ half-truths, and others are given to slander. Taming the tongue is difficult, but becoming a Christian means keeping a close _____ on our mouths. James sadly said, “from the same mouth come both _____ and _____. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way” (James 3:10).

The selfish and evil thinking of some Christians makes you wonder if their _____ were ever baptized. Some are full of _____, while others are full of _____. They think _____ of others and they step on others to get an advantage. Becoming a Christian means putting Christ first, others second, and ourselves _____. **Read Philippians 2:3-4.**

Considering what some people watch on television or at the movies, you’d wonder if their _____ and their _____ were baptized? Some Christians have grown callous to sinful words, nudity, violence, anger, and _____ of immoral behavior. Years ago, people expected the movie industry to maintain some moral _____. If a movie contained ungodly language or behavior, people _____ and told the theater managers they didn’t care for such indecent movies. Today, one can hardly go to a movie or watch a television program that doesn’t have indecent language or behavior. What are you letting into your _____?

How some people treat others makes you wonder if their _____ were baptized? Some people simply don’t know how to be _____ with others or how to _____. They seem to have _____ the words of our Lord, “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12). Many people live with anger, fear, or hatred in their _____. **Read Ephesians 4:31-32.** How are you _____? Do you _____ God?

God sets the bar high for those who would follow Him. **Read what he Lord Jesus said in Luke 14:26-27.** God expects us to love Him _____ than anything else, and to put Him first. Someone asks, “Aren’t we saved by _____?” Yes, and that grace is a precious _____ that can’t be _____. Because the gift is precious, God _____ our lives to see whether we have genuinely received the gift or took it for granted. The Lord Jesus out of love paid a very high _____ to save us from sin. The Lord will _____ us according to our response to His grace. Have you lived in a way that _____ that you love the Lord?

To enjoy the gift of salvation, we must lovingly _____ to His grace by faith, by repenting of our sins, by confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and by being _____ into Christ. When we love the Lord, we don’t argue with the Lord about what to do but simply _____ Him. We obey _____ we believe, and our obedience _____ our faith. Acts 2:38 still says, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Won’t you do that today?