

## Psalm 15

**Title:** The Citizen of Zion Described

**Author and Date:** David

**Key Verse:** Psalm 15:1

### **Outline**

- A. The question (verse 1).
- B. The answer (verses 2-5b).
- C. The promise (verse 5c).

### **Notes**

Title: See the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 1: This verse contains a good example of synonymous parallelism. “Abide in thy tabernacle” (KJV, verse 1a) is parallel (synonymous) with “dwell in thy holy hill” (KJV, verse 1b). This psalm gives the divine description or “qualifications” of the behavior of the righteous one who is in favor and fellowship with God. This one has a right to dwell in Zion as he sojourns along the way (see Psa. 24:3-6). This psalm may have been composed by David around the time that he transported the ark to Jerusalem (see 2 Sam. 6:12-19).

Verses 2-5: Note that the description of the Zion citizen alternates back and forth between positive characteristics and negative characteristics. Verse 2 states what he will do; verse 3, what he will not do; verse 4, what he will do; and, verse 5, what he will not do. There are a total of six things that he will do and five things that he will not do. The one described in Psalm 15 is opposite in character to the “fool” described in Psalm 14.

Verse 2-3: The walk (uprightly), works (righteousness, evil) and words (truth, slander, reproach) of a man are all taken into consideration.

Verse 3: The righteous man does not take up “a reproach against his neighbor”. This means he does not make his neighbor’s faults or misfortunes the object of his ridicule or sarcasm.

Verse 4: The “vile person” (KJV) is a “reprobate” (ASV), one who is morally worthless. The righteous man “swearth to his own hurt” (KJV), meaning he keeps his oaths without changing them, even those that may have been made to his own hurt (see Judges 11:35).

Verse 5: “Putteth not out his money to usury” (KJV) is talking about one who does not charge excessive interest to his fellow-Israelite (see Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:36ff). “Taketh reward against the innocent” (KJV) is talking about one who does not take a bribe which would pervert justice (see Ex. 23:8; Deut. 27:25).

## **Questions**

1. What question does the psalmist ask (verse 1)?
2. What three things will the Zion citizen do (verse 2)?
3. What three things will the Zion citizen not do (verse 3)?
4. What three things will the Zion citizen do (verse 4)?
5. What two things will the Zion citizen not do (verse 5)?
6. What promise is given to the one fits this description (verse 5)?

## **Applications for Today**

1. The psalmist gives a divine description of the Zion citizen. This is the description approved by God, not man. God’s standard is higher than man’s standard (verses 2-5). According to the author of Hebrews, what are some of the “qualifications” of the Christian who dwells in the heavenly Zion (Heb. 10:19-25; 10:39; 11:1; 12:1-2; 12:14-17; 13:1ff)?
2. We must be ethically pure and morally right before we can worship properly and be in favor and fellowship with God (verses 2-5).

What are some “qualifications” that Jesus gives (Mt. 5:3-10)?

What are some “qualifications” that Paul gives (Eph. 4:25 - 5:5; Col. 3:5-14)?

What are some “qualifications” that Peter gives (1 Pet. 3:8-12)?

What are some of the “qualifications” that John gives (1 Jn. 1:7-9; 2:10-11; 3:4-10)?

3. The one who matches this divine description will be blessed (verse 5c). What Christian is blessed (Mt. 7:21-23, 24-25; Jas. 1:25)?