

## Psalm 26

**Title:** A Protestation of Integrity

**Author and Date:** David

**Key Verses:** Psalm 26:1, 11

### **Outline**

- A. Professions of Integrity (verses 1-3).
- B. Proofs of Integrity (verses 4-5).
- C. Promises of Integrity (verses 6-8).
- D. Prayers of Integrity (verses 9-12).

### **Notes**

Title: "A Psalm of David." See the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 1: This psalm has been called a "protestation of integrity". A "protestation" is an assertion, affirmation, or declaration of some truth or fact. Note that the psalmist repeatedly says "I have..." and "I will..." throughout. He wants to make a declaration of his righteous conduct.

Verse 1: The psalmist begins and ends this psalm with the affirmation that he has walked in integrity. The word "integrity" (Heb. *tom*) means one is blameless, innocent (verse 6; Gen. 20:5-6) and walks with upright sincerity (verse 11; 1 K. 9:4; Job 2:3,9; Psa. 7:8; 41:12). The psalmist walks with sincerity and in single-hearted devotion to God. The occasion for this psalm may have been when David was unjustly accused of wrongdoing by one of his enemies. David wants to be vindicated and exonerated by God from this unjust accusation. The psalmist's integrity led to examination (verses 1-3), separation (verses 4-5), purification (verse 6), adoration (verses 7-8), preservation (verses 9-10), and veneration (verses 11-12).

Verses 1-2: Note the four requests of the psalmist: "judge me" (Psa. 7:8; 35:24; 43:1; 54:1), "examine me", "prove me" and "try me" (Psa. 139:23). The psalmist requests a thorough scrutiny from God. The "judge me" (or "do me justice") request is a request for divine vindication. Some versions read: "vindicate me". The psalmist wants God to vindicate his integrity and show him to be right (Psa. 43:1).

Verse 2: The "reins" (KJV) is a reference to the heart and mind (see newer versions).

Verses 4-5: The psalmist offers proof of his integrity. Compare these verses with Psalm 1:1. "Dissemblers" in verse 4 are hypocrites and pretenders.

Verse 6: “Wash my hands” is a symbolic expression of innocence, spiritual purity, and the removing of sin (Psa. 24:4; 73:13; Jer. 4:14; Jas. 4:8).

Verse 8: “The habitation of thy house” is a reference to the tabernacle (Ex. 25:8ff). Solomon’s temple is referred to in the same way (1 K. 8:13; 2 Chron. 6:2).

Verse 9: “Gather” is a reference to taking away the soul in death. The psalmist does not want to share the same fate as the wicked sinners (Psa. 28:3).

Verse 11: For “redeem me”, see Psalm 119:134 and 154. For “be merciful”, see Psalm 56:1; 57:1; 67:1; 86:3; and 119:58.

Verse 12: “An even place” is a place of safety and security (Psa. 27:11).

### **Questions**

1. What four things does the psalmist ask the Lord to do to him (verses 1-2)?

2. How does the psalmist walk and how does he trust (verse 1)?

3. What is before the psalmist’s eyes and how does he walk (verse 3)?

4. Where would the psalmist not sit and what does he hate (verses 4-5)?

5. What will the psalmist do and where will he do it (verse 6)?

6. What will the psalmist do at the Lord’s altar (verse 7)?

7. What does the psalmist love (verse 8)?

8. Where does the psalmist not want to be found (verse 9)?

9. What is in the hand of sinners (verse 10)?

10. What two additional things does the psalmist ask the Lord to do to him (verse 11)?

11. Where does the psalmist stand and where does he bless the Lord (verse 12)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. Are we men and women of integrity (verses 1 and 11)? How is Job described (Job 2:3,9)?

2. What would the Lord find in us if we asked him to judge us, examine us, prove us, and try us (verses 1-2)? Who proves the heart of man (1 Thess. 2:4)? What kind of examination is important (2 Cor. 13:5)?

3. Are we walking in truth each day (verse 3)? What made John rejoice (2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 4)?

4. We are not to have fellowship with false-hood and evil (verses 4-5). What kind of associations are we to avoid (1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11)?

5. We should come to worship with a pure life and we should love to be present for worship (verses 6-8). What requirement does Jesus make regarding worship (Mt. 5:23-24)? What is the psalmist's attitude toward coming for worship (Psa. 27:4; 122:1)?

6. The wicked plan evil things (verses 9-10). How does Paul describe these people (Rom. 1:30)?

7. Do not forget to bless (praise) the Lord after you ask him to bless you (verses 11-12). What did Zacharias (Lk. 1:68), Paul (2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3) and Peter (1 Pet. 1:3) all do and what caused them to do it?