

## Psalms 25

**Psalms 25:9,10 The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

We experienced the pleasure of hearing several verses from this Psalm sung in church last Sunday. Since we were almost here, I thought it would be good for us to follow up and meditate on the entire Psalm.

**Psalms 25:** This Psalm begins and ends in prayer. The middle section speaks of God rather than to God but it is what we know of God that informs our prayers. The more clearly we have God in view the better our prayers will be.

The first prayer is one of the abandonment of self in favor of a wholehearted trust in God. We do not usually reach this state unless our self directed efforts have failed, so, by the time we choose to put our trust entirely in God, we are often in a state of crisis. This premise seems to be consistent with David's self description. David promises to lift up his soul to God and to trust in Him. He wants God to protect him from shame and from his enemies who deserve to be shamed. In addition, David is

anxious to be taught by the Lord.

Specifically, David wants to be shown God's paths and to be led in His truth. He asks that God remember His tender mercy and lovingkindness but he does not want God to remember the "sins of my youth."

Beginning in verse 8 David speaks of God. God is good and upright and so He teaches sinners in the way. He guides and teaches the humble so that the "sinners" David has in mind are those who are conscious of their sin and who want to change. David sees the relationship between the choices we make (to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies) and the attitude that God takes toward us (All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth.) Out of these thoughts David sends up a quickie prayer, "For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great."

Beginning in verse 12 David describes the steps that we can take to be in right relationship with God. To be in right relationship with God is to fear God. The benefits of such a relationship are being taught by God, dwelling in prosperity, having descendents who inherit the earth, possessing the secret of the Lord, and sharing in the covenant. These thoughts lead to David's resolve, "My eyes are ever

toward the Lord, for he shall pluck my feet out of the net."

In verse 16, David returns to prayer, that is if he ever left that state. The tone of his prayer is now less confident and more transparent in regard to his failings and sins. Thinking about God and who He is has seemed to increase the distance between David and his God. Now, David is distraught, "Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses." And yet, David remembers the mercy of God and counts on His compassion. "Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins." David comes back to the reality of the conflict that he is fighting and of where God is in respect to that conflict. Confidence is restored when David returns to trust in God. He can be counted on to be who He is and to do what He does. "Keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles."