

## Who Can Stand Before The Lord?

### **Intro**

- A. Begin by picturing the scene of a common courtroom: describe
- i. There is nothing inherently scary about this scene: it is all a matter of perspective, why are you there in the first place?
  - ii. *Illus. of entering the court as a young witness, and then again, as an older defendant.*
  - iii. The perspective changes depending on whether or not you are a bystander or one on trial
- B. The scene of someone on trial is often used in scripture pertaining to judgment (*even courtroom scenes in Isaiah*)
- i. When we think about the judgment to come, how do we picture ourselves? Observers or as one whose life is going to be tried?
  - ii. Heaven is our Hope, and we are right to dwell on it; But we do ourselves a disservice if we don't give serious thought to the test that we must pass first.
  - iii. Must be careful not to develop an attitude that Judgment is what happens to sinners, well-dones are what happens for Christians: we will all be brought into judgment: *Romans 14:10*
  - iv. Even so, it is not something that people seem to want to dwell on:
    - a. (*illus of 509: We shall stand...*) Evidenced by the songs we sing: in our books combined there are 98 songs about Heaven, and 7 about the judgment, and only one that really impresses the gravity of the situation!
    - b. The frightening images scenes of fire and judgment can produce in as children tend to abate over time (*Illus of dream*)
  - v. Even while keeping Heaven as our hope, there is a degree, that simply by picturing ourselves standing before the Judge of all the Earth, looking at our lives deeds, should leave us awestruck:
    - i. *Revelation 20:11-15* describes that scene as one of great awe
    - ii. *Hebrews 10:31* has the author stating how terrifying it would be to fall into the Judge's hands in a state of unpreparedness
    - iii. *Isaiah 33:14* In reference to God's judgment asks "who can live with consuming fire?"

*iv. 1 Sam. 6:20* records the words of the men of Beth-Shemesh: who can stand before the Lord, this holy God?

*v.* And that is a question that the Psalmists ask continually: Who can dwell before the Lord?

*a. Psalm 15:1, 24:3*

C. David, was a Psalmist who not only asked the question, but had the answer as well:

*Psalm 26:1-2, 12*

- i. David is calling on God to Judge him in a matter; and he had the confidence that he would be found innocent!
- ii. Prove me: like a precious metal: put through the fire and tested for impurities
- iii. Try Me: To examine through smell or taste: (touch, handle, closely inspect my life)
- iv. Test Me: a continual refining: put my mind and heart through again, I'm ready for judgment in my innermost being
  - a. How often have we felt that same assurance? Ever? Now?
  - b. How did David achieve such a state of mind? *Psalm 26:1-12*
  - c. for the rest of our time, intend to look at this and other Psalms as we seek to answer the Question: who can stand before the Lord in judgment?

*One reason for David's confidence was he did not keep company with wicked men: v 4-5; so we ask:*

### **i. What is the Company we Keep?**

- a. There is a reason why we will be judged in this area; Consider the example of Israel:
  - i. The Israelites were to destroy the people of the Canaan, and shun relationships with the nations around them:
    1. Lev. 20:23: Don't look to them as an example to imitate: not their culture or their practices
    2. Deut. 7:3 Don't even think about marrying them!
    3. Deut. 20:16-17 Don't leave any thing breathing in Canaan
    4. God was deadly serious about this being something they would be judged by!
  - ii. The reason was God's desire for a separate and Holy People: Lev. 20:23, Deut. 7:6
- b. The company we keep can keep us from the company of the Lord:

- i. We are still God's Holy Nation, and while we seek to save the world, friendship with it is enmity with God.
- ii. Israel chose to live by another Standard than Gods, and would be punished as promised: Deut. 7:4
- iii. If our companions reflect a different pursuit than God's standard, we are not ready to stand before the throne.

**2. Do We Walk in Integrity? *Psalm 24:3-4, 15:1-2***

- a. Can we describe the lives that we are living as blameless and innocent? Do we know what it means to be people of integrity?
  - i. Continuing the idea of a courtroom, how would you fair if God called a character witness to the stand? What would your reputation be?
  - ii. David describes a man of integrity and character as follows: ***Psalm 15:2-5***
    - 1. Take note of what the man of integrity looks like
- b. His speech is pure:
  - i. He not only speaks the truth, but does it from a sincere heart: need more!
  - ii. He doesn't use his mouth for slander or the destruction of others: need more!  
Instead he uses His mouth to praise and edify: ***Psalm 26:6-7***
- c. He looks to the good of his fellowman:
  - i. He isn't seeking the ruin of his neighbor for the betterment of self
  - ii. He isn't looking to bring shame on his friends
  - iii. Instead he seeks to treat everyone he deals with fairly and honestly: We would all be better ambassadors of Christ if we worked hard on these three traits
- d. He keeps his word, even when it is difficult: 15:4
  - i. Warned in various areas of scripture against rash vows, lest we suffer the consequences: The man of integrity's word is so strong, that in the course of seeking the good of others he may frequently incur self-affliction to make good on his Yes or No

*Who are we choosing to spend our time with? Those who have hearts open to the message of God, or those rebelling against Him? How are we treating them and others while around them? These questions have a big impact on how effective we are in reaching the lost and encouraging the saints*

### **3. Do You Love Worshipping God?**

- a. David loved being in the Tabernacle we see in Ps. 26:8, a sentiment echoed in 27:4, 122:1
- b. It is interesting that his love is included in Psalm 26 when asking to be called into judgment: David believed that part of his vindication would rest on if he loved worshipping the Lord: and so will ours!
  - i. Malachi 1:13, in the face of those who considered worship a burden God commands the doors to be closed!
  - ii. John 4:24, Worshipping God in spirit implies our hearts are in it
  - iii. Col.3:16, God's word will dwell in us richly if we enjoy it
  - iv. 1 Cor. 11:27-29 We will only honor Christ if it is something we want to do
- c. Our love of bringing God the praise He is due will no doubt be another factor that decides if we can stand before His throne:

**Conclusion:** Consider one final reading from the Psalmists: Psalm 32:1-6

- This Psalm speaks of what it is like when a Judge who knows you stand guilty, grants you a pardon you don't deserve:
- The Judge has allowed the transgressor to enter a plea for mercy, a limited window of opportunity.
- This lesson has dealt with friends, speech, and attitude, but has not been a lesson about those subjects:
- David's mind set was that he would take advantage of a merciful Judge, and pursue righteousness in every aspect of his life, so that when judgment came, he would be ready to stand before God's throne.