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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“PERSONAL PERFECTION”**

**Psalms 101**

**{A Psalm of David}**

This psalm describes the personal desires of perfection of King David and is a picture of Christ, his descendant, who will in fact fulfill this ideal picture perfectly. The perfect king sings to the Lord (v. 1), keeps his personal life perfectly pure (vv. 2–4), and administers perfect social justice (vv. 5–8). Ultimately only Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man (David), can and will fulfill the commitments and perfect ideals of Psalm 101. Thankfully, through His perfect sacrifice, He has transferred that perfection unto us through the power of the Holy Spirit and our obedience to His Word.

***Hebrews 10:14 “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”***

***Psalms 101:1 “I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing."***

In light of God’s faithful love and his demonstrated justice, King David devotes himself to the Lord. This psalm is an expression of King David’s commitment to reign righteously, and to establish this pattern for future kings of Israel and believers today. The psalm is built around seven “I will” statements.

***1 I will sing of mercy and judgment unto thee, O LORD, will I sing (vs 1)***

**2 *I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way (vs 2)***

***3 I will walk within my house with a perfect heart (vs 2)***

***4 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes (vs 3)***

***5 I will not know a wicked [person] (vs 4)***

***6 I will cut off* *whoso* *privily slandereth his neighbour, (vs 5)***

**7 *I will early destroy all the wicked of the land (vs 8)***

The King Is Committed to Personal Righteousness. In light of God’s everlasting lovingkindness and justice extolled in the previous psalms (98:9; 99:1-4; 100:5), Psalm 101 develops a new and complementary theme of King David’s commitment to live and reign with personal righteousness. David is aware that he is king because God anointed him to be king and not from his own worthiness. In the last few Psalms that David wrote, he was praying for God's help, and then praising Him for the help that came. God is not only a God of love, but a God of judgment, as well. David is aware that the blessings from God come when we let God’s will be done in our lives. To stay in the blessings, David, and believers today, must align their will, like Jesus modeled in the garden of gethsemane, with the will of God.

***Matthew 26:39 “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”***

***Ephesians 1:5***

***5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

***Ephesians 1:9***

***9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:***

***Philippians 2:13***

***13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.***

The songs that David sings are for the ears of God. Jesus taught, that to pray in secret, just for God's ears brought great pleasure to God. Praise given in private, just to God, brings Him much pleasure, as well. David could easily have been alone singing to God here.

***Matthew 6:6 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”***

***Ephesians 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”***

***Psalms 101:2 "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."***

David’s pursuit of the Lord began with the determination to live his life daily (walk) by developing integrity (or “purity,” signifying moral wholeness based on emulation of God’s character as revealed in His Word) in his heart, his conscious inner self. This is a determination on David's part to walk uprightly before God. David is asking God to come and fellowship with him in his home. David wants to confer with the Lord before he makes any decisions while he is king. We know that David's heart wanted to please God in all things. We do, also, know that David sinned, because he answered the call of his flesh. However, David never stopped desiring to do God's will in his heart.

***Psalm 1:1-2***

***1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.***

***2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.***

***Psalm 18:32 “It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.”***

***Psalm 119:1 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.”***

***Proverbs 13:6 “Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.”***

***Psalms 101:3 "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; [it] shall not cleave to me."***

David’s determination to set no wicked (evil; demonic) thing before his eyes indicates a determination not to be drawn away to wickedness.

***Psalm 84:10 “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.”***

The definition of wickedness according to the Bible is "The state of being wicked; a spiritual disregard for justice, righteousness, truth, honor, virtue; evil in thought and life; depravity; sinfulness; criminality." Wickedness is associated with worshipping pagan gods, sexual immorality, oppressing the poor, and cruelty in warfare. Even though Scripture teaches that every person is born a sinner, it also teaches that all sinners are not wicked. For a sinner to become wicked, they must deliberately with the full knowledge of God, reject and blaspheme God and His goodness.

***Romans 1:28-32***

***28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,***

***30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:***

***32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

Salvation is common and available to all men. Sadly, only a few with accept it. But those who do not accept Christ, clearly a bad decision, are not necessarily wicked. But their bad decision to ignore God keeps them the power to overcome wickedness.

***1 Corinthians 15:33-34***

***33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.***

***34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.***

***Jude 1:3-8***

***3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.***

***4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.***

***6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.***

***7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.***

***8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.***

***Psalms 101:4 "A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked [person]."***

Again, here, David determines not to have evil people in his company. We become like the people we are around. We must be very careful in choosing our friends. David is saying, he will not employ evil people to work for him or have evil people for his friends. Notice, that David begins by cleaning up his own heart. Then he refuses to be associated with any evil people who might influence him to do evil. In obedience to the Lord, the righteous will hate the work of those who fall away into apostasy from the Lord. A froward (perverse) heart is the opposite of a blameless godly heart. By departing from these sinful practices, David will not know (participate in or be intimately involved with) a wicked person.

***Proverbs 11:20***

***They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.***

Human wickedness is demonic and is often manifested with mass murderers, serial rapists, child molesters, perversion and drug dealers.

***John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”***

That is why we should not fellowship with the wickedness of this world. Wicked people and things plant evil thoughts in your mind. Your mind is a computer. Everything you see and hear goes into that computer and is recorded there. You may not realize that it is influencing you to do bad, but it is. This is just what David is saying here. He will not even look at wicked, if by chance it might influence his thinking. The best way to stay out of trouble is not to go where trouble is. Most people take their first drink, because they are trying to be one of the gang they are with. The people, and the things we are around, influence us, whether we want them to or not. David should have done what he said he would do here. The first step to sin is to look with your eyes. In this David is saying, I hate sin, I will not get involved in sin. Just as Eve's sin began when she looked at the forbidden fruit with desire in her heart, David's sin began when he looked at Bathsheba. Sin begins with the eye looking, and the heart desiring the forbidden.

***James 1:14-15***

***14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.***

***15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.***

***Psalms 101:5 "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer."***

David is trying to pattern his life according to the life of his Lord. Even though a person says something ugly about someone in private, God does not approve of slander, and neither does David. David says, if I hear someone talking this way, I will know the man is evil and get rid of him. David is, also, following God's choice when he says that those with a proud heart and a high look will be cut off, as well. David is choosing his companions by God's choices. If God does not approve of them, neither will David.

***Psalms 101:6 “Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.”***

King David would only have people serving in his administration who displayed faithful character and a commitment to God. David wants people around him who love the Lord as he does. He knows people who love God have good morals. They will be loyal to David as have been loyal to their God. David expects no more from his servants he is willing to be himself. When godly people are in authority, they choose godly people to work with them. You will have a government that is fair and honest when this is the case. To walk in a “perfect way” does not mean living a sinless life, but a determination to consistently obey and serve the Lord.

***Psalms 101:7 "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight."***

A truthful man, such as David, cannot tolerate people around him who are not truthful. Some cultures think it to be clever to be deceitful if it gets them where they are going. The believe the ends justify the means, saying “by any means necessary.” Everyone does not go by the principle of the Ten Commandments. Atheists do not have a guilty conscience when they steal, or lie, since they do not believe in God.

***Psalms 101:8 "I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD."***

David knows that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump. Wickedness should not be tolerated but must be addressed immediately (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). At the very beginning of his reign as king, David will seek out the evil people, and prosecute them, and get them away from society. In our society today, it would be like deporting them, or locking them away from society. David is determined to have the land, that he reigns over, a land of godly people. Jerusalem was thought of by David as being a holy city, and he would not tolerate evil in the city of God. Even today, it is still thought of as being the holy city of God. To be the king of the land carried tremendous responsibility with it. David wanted his reign to be a godly reign.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 1, David will sing of what?
2. God is not just a God of love, but of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. In verse 2, David says, he will behave himself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. I will set no wicked thing before my \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How is the best way to stay out of trouble?
6. When did Eve's sin begin?
7. When did David's sin with Bathsheba begin?
8. What is verse 4 of this lesson saying?
9. How does David begin cleaning up those around him?
10. How was the slander described in verse 5?
11. Who does David want to dwell with him?
12. People who love God have \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Why can you not trust an atheist to tell the truth?
14. What will David do to the wicked in the land, at the beginning of his reign?
15. What is thought by David to be the holy city of God?