

Lord is going to
us - to see what in
INSIDE of us...

- o REWARDING the wicked with JUDGEMENT and the righteous with LOVE!
- **Psalm 12** – Help from the LORD
 - o David realized there were NO more Godly men in the world...
 - o But through the PURE Word of the Lord – God turns wicked men into GODLY saints!

PSALM 13 – LEARNING PATIENCE

- **1st – How LONG... vs. 1-2**
 - o 1st – Introduction... vs. 1
 - **To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David!**
 - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – leads the congregation in worship!
 - PSALM of DAVID – a Psalm of LAMENT – turning fear into FAITH!
 - o 2nd – FOUR questions... vs. 1-2
 - **How long - O LORD - will You forget me forever!**
 - HOW LONG [הַיָּמִים] – used 4x here – carries the idea of until when...
 - FORGET - David FELT like the LORD was constantly [imperfect] IGNORING him...
 - As if God did not CARE about David – paid no attention to his prayers!
 - **How long will You hide Your face from me!**
 - HIDE – David FELT like the LORD was constantly [imperfect] AVOIDING him...
 - Not that David had ever literally seen the FACE of the LORD – **Exodus 33:20**
 - More like God was ASHAMED of David – was embarrassed to be around him!
 - **How long shall I take counsel in my soul - having sorrow in my heart daily!**
 - COUNSEL [advice] – the result of God IGNORING and AVOIDING...
 - David was left to seek ADVICE from himself – his own IDEAS...
 - Which inevitably resulted in SORROW – daily – because they did NOT work!
 - **How long will my enemy be exalted over me!**
 - EXALTED – because the IDEAS of David did not work – his ENEMIES were victorious...
 - Which is why he was asking the question – HOW LONG!
 - But it was the WRONG question – he should have been asking WHY!
 - **There are going to be days when we do not FEEL the presence of the LORD...**
 - **When we do not SEE Him working – and the temptation is to fall back to our IDEAS...**
 - **But if we are TRUSTING in our WISDOM – it will always [daily] end up in FAILURE [sorrow]**
 - **Instead we should be asking – WHY is the LORD not talking – working!**
- **2nd – WHY THE TROUBLES... vs. 3-4**
 - o 1st – Hear me... vs. 3
 - **Consider and hear me - O LORD my God!**
 - CONSIDER – meaning to LOOK – David begged [imperative] the Lord to LOOK at him...
 - HEAR – meaning to ANSWER – David begged [imperative] the Lord to RESPOND to him...
 - Because David was in TROUBLE – he was coming desperately to the Lord...
 - Which gives us the answer to WHY – God was trying to get his attention!
 - **When everything in life is going well – when there are NO trials...**
 - **We tend to forget about the LORD – we get busy with things we THINK are important...**
 - **The RESULT is God allows our lives to FALL apart – to get our attention...**
 - **Causing us to come to the LORD – pleading with Him to LOOK and LISTEN to us!**
 - o 2nd – Enlighten me... vs. 4
 - **Enlighten my eyes - lest I sleep the sleep of death!**
 - **Lest my enemy say - I have prevailed against him!**
 - **Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved!**
 - ENLIGHTEN – to shine the light of day – to ILLUMINATE - expose the TRUTH...
 - David begged [imperative] the LORD to REVEAL to his eyes the TRUTH...

- So his ENEMIES would not have VICTORY – those who TROUBLE him would not REJOICE!
- The King of Syria sent a great army to arrest Elisha – his servant saw them and panicked...
- Then Elisha prayed for the Lord to open the eyes of his servant – **II Kings 6:16**
- The servant looked up – and the hillside around Elisha was filled...
- Horses and chariots of fire – an army of angels surrounding the army of Syria!
- It is easy in life to forget that what we can SEE – is NOT the whole story...
- Even when everything seems to be against us – we can think we are lost...
- But no matter who is against us – if we ask – the LORD will open our eyes to show us VICTORY!
- **3RD – RESULTS... vs. 5-6**
 - 1st – Trust... vs. 5
 - But I have trusted in Your mercy!
 - TRUSTED - [תָּרַח] – protection or hope – is an OT equivalent of FAITH [πίστις]!
 - MERCY [חַנּוּן] – which is the OT equivalent of GRACE [χάρις]
 - David put [perfect] his FAITH in the GRACE of God!
 - **James 1:3** – “Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience...”
 - KNOW [γινώσκω] – to learn through EXPERIENCE – to TRUST in GRACE!
 - If the Children of Israel had not been caught between Egypt and the Red Sea – **Exodus 14:13**
 - They never could have seen their God was able to part an ocean!
 - If we always had enough money – we would never see the Lord provide...
 - If we were always healthy - we could never see the Lord miraculously heal...
 - It is through our TRIALS – we LEARN to PATIENTLY wait on the LORD!
 - 2nd – Rejoice... vs. 5
 - My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation!
 - REJOICE – David always [imperfect] had JOY in his heart because of SALVATION...
 - SALVATION [יְשׁוּעָה] – David was full of JOY because of JESUS!
 - **Romans 5:3-4** – “We also GLORY in tribulation knowing that they produce perseverance - and perseverance – character - and character - hope.”
 - In the midst of TRIALS – we are FILLED with JOY...
 - Not PANICKING – because we have LEARNED to put our TRUST in GRACE...
 - Even in the DARKEST hour – we KNOW that Jesus is still with us – **Hebrews 13:5**
 - 3rd – Sing... vs. 6
 - I will sing to the LORD - because He has dealt bountifully with me!
 - SING [cohortative] – David would REALLY praise the LORD...
 - Rather than IGNORING him – David realized TRIALS were the LORD working in his life...
 - BOUNTIFULLY – a word that can mean to WEAN!
 - When a baby gets to be old enough – a mom will WEAN the child off of milk...
 - Not because she does not love them – but so they can MATURE!
 - God desires we move on from the MILK – looking only at this life...
 - Instead move onto the MEAT – realize God uses this life to prepare us for eternity...
 - When we SEE that – we no longer are overwhelmed by TRIALS...
 - Instead we REJOICE in them – PRAISING the LORD – for the work He is doing in us!

PSALM 14 – WAY OF THE FOOL

- **1ST – THE FOOL... vs. 1**
 - 1st – Introduction...
 - To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David!
 - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – leads the congregation in worship!
 - PSALM of DAVID – a Psalm of WISDOM – looking at the FOOLISH!

- o 2nd – The FOOL...
 - The fool has said in his heart - *there is no God!*
 - FOOL [פֶּגֶל] – is someone who ALWAYS [perfect] says in his HEART...
 - NO God – note the words THERE IS are in italics [not in the Hebrew text]
 - The FOOL says NEVER [אֵין] to a GOD [אֱלֹהִים] he refuses to know Him!
 - Men know God exists – because of their conscience...
 - God has written the knowledge of Himself on our conscience...
 - No one has to tell us lying / murder / stealing is wrong – we just know it!
 - You do not have to tell a child there is a God – they already know...
 - But you do have to send an adult to school for years to convince him there is not!
 - Men know God exists – because of creation...
 - Romans 1:20 – “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen - being understood by the things that are made - even His eternal power and Godhead - so that they are without excuse.”
 - The incredible design of the world around us – required a powerful creator...
 - When we look up at the stars at night – when we see a picturesque sunset...
 - In our heart you know – it is not an accident – there is a God who created this!
 - Bottom line – men know God is there – no one can claim they are ignorant...
 - No one will be able to say they did not KNOW there was a God...
 - But they can CHOOSE to NOT want to KNOW God!
- 2ND – THE DESCRIPTION... vs. 1-3
 - o 1st – DECAYED... vs. 1
 - They are corrupt - they have done abominable works - there is none who does good!
 - As a RESULT [hiphil] of them NOT wanting to know God – they are ALWAYS [perfect]
 - CORRUPT – to be decayed – spiritually rotten – perverted...
 - ABOMINABLE – they become something disgusting – an abomination...
 - NO GOOD – they NEVER [אֵין] do anything that God considers GOOD [טוֹב]
 - If you have ever seen a piece of rotting fruit – covered in filth – smelling terrible...
 - The instant reaction is to avoid it – there is NOTHING good there!
 - Because men are no longer CONNECTED to God – John 15:4
 - The result of REJECTING Him – they become decayed – disgusting...
 - What God created to be GOOD – has rotted spiritually apart from Him!
 - Note – they do not do BAD because they are SINNERS...
 - They CANNOT do GOOD things – because of they are not CONNECTED to the LORD!
 - John 15:5 – “For without Me you can do nothing.”
 - o 2nd – No UNDERSTANDING... vs. 2
 - The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men...
 - To see if there are any who understand - who seek God!
 - LOOKS – the EVIL of men caused [hiphil] the LORD to look down on the children of MEN [אָדָם]
 - Was there ANYONE left who UNDERSTOOD – to think about or consider the LORD...
 - Who still SEEK God [אֱלֹהִים] – how far gone were the SONS of ADAM!
 - Genesis 6:5 – “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
 - This takes us back to the state of the world in the days before the FLOOD...
 - When EVERY [כָּל] desire in the hearts of men – even before the it was a conscious thought...
 - Were ALWAYS [הָיָה] evil - the sad state of men who have completely walked away from God!
 - We might think – well we are better than that today...
 - But people do NOT change - if we made a list of our priorities in life – food – possessions...
 - For most the last thing on the list – if it made it at all - would be God...

- The reason – we do not UNDERSTAND – life is about knowing the LORD...
- We focus on everything that is temporary – and miss the one thing that is eternal...
- The penalty of hell - or the hope of eternity in heaven!
- o 3rd – No GOOD... vs. 3
 - They have all turned aside - they have together become corrupt...
 - There is none who does good – no - not one!
 - TURN aside – to leave the STRAIGHT path – turn away from the LORD – **Matthew 7:13**
 - CORRUPT – their choice to reject God has made them [passive] FILTHY...
 - NOT even ONE of them can do [אין] GOOD [טוב]!
 - The KEY question – who TURNS aside – who is CORRUPT...
 - The answer is EVERYONE – there is NONE who are GOOD!
 - We might argue and think we are GOOD – but what is our DEFINITION...
 - I might be GOOD is compared to a MURDER – but what if I am compared to GOD...
 - His DEFINITION of GOOD is to be like Him – so there is NONE who are GOOD!
 - **Matthew 5:48** – “Be perfect - just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
- 3RD – THE RESULT... vs. 4-7
 - o 1st – CONSUME... vs. 4
 - Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge - who eat up my people as they eat bread...
 - And do not call on the LORD!
 - No KNOWLEDGE [לֹא יָדְעוּ] – to NOT see or comprehend...
 - Those who turn from GOD – are hardened by SIN – do not see their NEED for the LORD...
 - Instead they CONSUME one another - like they are eating bread!
 - CONTRAST – those who know the LORD – are full of LOVE for one another – **John 13:35**
 - Those who reject the LORD – consume one another!
 - **Galatians 5:15** – “Beware lest you be consumed by one another!”
 - o 2nd – FEAR... vs. 5
 - There they are in great fear - for God is with the generation of the righteous!
 - Great FEAR [פֶּחַדוֹ פֶּחַדוֹ] – FEAR is repeated TWICE – fearing [verb] they are AFRAID [noun]
 - Because the LORD - DWELLS [generation] with the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]
 - Those who REJECT the LORD – know they are on the WRONG side...
 - So they are always [perfect] AFRAID – knowing their judgement is coming!
 - o 3rd – Shame... vs. 6
 - You shame the counsel of the poor - but the LORD is his refuge!
 - Counsel of the HUMBLE [עֲנִי] – those who see their NEED for the LORD...
 - Those who REJECT God – must SHAME [hiphil] those who put their TRUST [refuge] in God!
 - The world REJECTS Jesus - because He convicts the world of sin and righteousness...
 - And because men LOVE sin - they hate the light that reveals their sinfulness - **John 3:19-20**
 - If we are Jesus FRIEND – because they hate Jesus – they also hate us!
 - **John 15:18** – “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world - the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world - but I chose you out of the world - therefore the world hates you.”
 - o 4th – Salvation... vs. 7
 - Oh - that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!
 - When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people - let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!
 - This final RESULT seems to contradict the rest...
 - From CONSUMING – FEAR – and SHAME – we finish with SALVATION...
 - Because the SALVATION [יְשׁוּעָה] of Israel comes out of ZION [Jerusalem]!
 - Paul quotes from this Psalm – telling us that ALL have sinned – **Romans 3:10-12**
 - But Jesus [יְשׁוּעָה] came so that ANY sinner could be saved by GRACE!

- **Romans 3:23-24** – “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
- Jesus came to bring us BACK from the CAPTIVITY of SIN...
- To take JACOB [sinner] and make us ISRAEL [governed by God]
- Therefore we REJOICE – because all though we ALL rejected God – He came to bring us back!

PSALM 15 – WAY OF THE UPRIGHT

- **1ST – TRUST THE LORD... vs. 1**
 - 1st – Introduction...
 - A Psalm of David!
 - PSALM of DAVID – a Psalm of WISDOM – the way of the UPRIGHT!
 - 2nd – The QUESTION...
 - LORD - who may abide in Your tabernacle. Who may dwell in Your holy hill!
 - TABERNACLE – was the place where people come to meet with the LORD...
 - There were THREE sections to the TENT of MEETING – **Exodus 39:32**
 - The INNER court – where people would come to give their OFFERING to the LORD...
 - The HOLIEST – inside the TENT - where only the PRIESTS were allowed...
 - The HOLY of HOLIES – HIGH priest was the ONLY one allowed in – once a year on [יום כִּפּוּר]
 - Meaning NO one could ABIDE in the presence of God!
- **2ND – THE UPRIGHT... vs. 2-5**
 - 1st – In HEART... vs. 2
 - He who walks uprightly - and works righteousness - and speaks the truth in his heart!
 - Walk UPRIGHT [תָּמִים] – to walk PERFECT – not make any mistakes...
 - Work RIGHTEOUSNESS [113 – [קִדְּשׁ in OT – to do what is RIGHT...
 - Speaks TRUTH in his HEART – not just external – it is also in about motives!
 - Paul thought he was a UPRIGHT – until he read - you shall not covet - **Romans 7:7-11**
 - Paul could control what he did - his WALK – but he could NOT control his HEART!
 - I know a lot of people who think they are good because the OUTSIDE...
 - But being UPRIGHT is not just about being PERFECT in our ACTIONS – it is about our MOTIVES!
 - 2nd – In WORDS... vs. 2
 - He who does not backbite with his tongue...
 - Nor does evil to his neighbor - nor does he take up a reproach against his friend!
 - BACKBITE – to gossip or talk bad [evil] about another [neighbor]
 - **James 1:26** – “If anyone... thinks he is [upright] - and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart...”
 - Notice how GOSSIP always seems to be about the BAD things people do...
 - People GOSSIP about others – so they do NOT look so bad...
 - As if somehow - they are more righteous – because at least they are not as BAD...
 - Doing EVIL to their neighbor – reproaching their friend – for their own BENEFIT!
 - 3rd – In FRIENDSHIP... vs. 3
 - In whose eyes a vile person is despised - but he honors those who fear the LORD...
 - He who swears to his own hurt and does not change!
 - DESPISE the vile – they reject and do not make friends with sinners – **James 4:4**
 - HONOR those who FEAR the LORD – because they are good examples – **I Corinthians 11:1**
 - SWEAR to their own harm – meaning they do NOT go back on their promises – **Matthew 5:37**
 - The EXAMPLE of the people we choose to surround ourselves with influence us...
 - They will by their example either stir us up to HONOR the LORD...
 - Or they will be a distraction - keep us to DESPISE the LORD!

- **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
- o 4th – In MONEY... vs. 4
 - He who does not put out his money at usury - nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
 - USURY – to charge interest on a LOAN...
 - Israel could not charge INTEREST on a LOAN - **Deuteronomy 23:19**
 - Do not use MONEY as a means to make a PROFIT off of others....
 - Lending often does not go well - people are thrilled when they get money...
 - But then avoid the lender like the plague when it comes time to be paid back!
 - **Romans 13:8** – "Owe no one anything except to love one another..."
 - BRIBES – against the INNOCENT
 - Do not use MONEY as a tool to get our way...
 - When people do NOT trust the JUDGE – because he is willing to take a GIFT...
 - When rulers are allowed to receive BRIBES – there is NO justice!
 - **Proverbs 17:23** – "The WICKED accept secret bribes to pervert justice."
- o 5th – Never MOVED... vs. 5
 - He who does these things shall never be moved!
 - These things – to be UPRIGHT in HEART – WORDS – FRIENDSHIPS – and MONEY...
 - They will NOT be moved – they will be able to ABIDE in the presence of the LORD!
 - The problem is NO one can do these things – they are IMPOSSIBLE...
 - No one can ABIDE in the TABERNACLE – the HOLY [קֹדֶשׁ] place of God...
 - Because we are all FOOLS – but Jesus opened up the door into the HOLIEST...
 - He tore open the VEIL – and gives us access to boldly come before the throne of GRACE!
 - **Hebrews 4:16** – "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace - that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

PSALM 16 – VICTORY IN JESUS

- 1ST – TRUST THE LORD... vs. 1-2
 - o 1st – Introduction... vs. 1
 - A Michtam of David!
 - PSALM of DAVID – a Psalm of PROPHECY – concerning the MESSIAH!
 - MIGHTAM – 6x in OT – always in the introduction - **Psalm 16** and **Psalm 56-60**
 - Some believe the word means GOLDEN – meaning a VALUABLE Psalm...
 - Others believe the word means CARVED – worth chiseling into stone...
 - Perhaps like an album that has gone GOLD – because it was so popular!
 - But others believe the word is technical – telling HOW the Psalm is to be sung...
 - Bottom line the word is a bit of a MYSTERY – with an UNCERTAIN meaning!
 - o 2nd – Trust in the LORD... vs. 1-2
 - Preserve me - O God - for in You I put my trust!
 - O my soul - you have said to the LORD - You are my Lord...
 - My goodness is nothing apart from You!
 - PRESERVE – to keep safe from the JUDGMENT we deserve...
 - TRUST [תִּשְׁמְרֵנִי] – protection or hope – is an OT equivalent of FAITH [πίστις]
 - David put his FAITH in the LORD – which protected him for the JUDGEMENT of the LORD...
 - My Lord [not caps] - David also chose to DAILY submit to the LORD as his MASTER [אֲדֹנָי]
 - Because he knew his GOODNESS – was NOTHING apart from the LORD!
 - We are all FOOLS – we have rejected the LORD – and are not GOOD...
 - But when by FAITH we come to Jesus – He makes UPRIGHT before God...
 - But it is not just about salvation – it is about DAILY coming to Jesus for His GRACE!

- **2ND – DELIGHT IN THE LORD... vs. 3-9**
 - 1st – The SAINTS... vs. 3
 - As for the saints who are on the earth - they are the excellent ones - in whom is all my delight!
 - SAINTS [קְדוֹשִׁים] – the HOLY ones – those who are SET apart for God...
 - David put ALL [כָּל] his delight – FRIENDSHIP - in those who lived for the LORD!
 - 2nd – The WICKED... vs. 4
 - Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another *god*...
 - Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer - nor take up their names on my lips!
 - SORROWS – many are the wounds of those who run after another god...
 - Therefore David would NOT follow their example - give offerings to other gods...
 - He would not even mention their NAME [god is in italics]
 - 3rd – The PORTION... vs. 5-6
 - O LORD - You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup. You maintain my lot.
 - The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. Yes - I have a good inheritance!
 - The LORD was the ONLY thing [portion] David wanted from life...
 - The LINES – circumstances - the Lord had given him were PLEASANT...
 - Because David knew He had a good INHERITANCE with the LORD!
 - **I Peter 1:4** – “An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away - reserved in heaven for you.”
 - We are heirs to all that God has - joint heirs with Jesus Christ!
 - That means God desires to give us EVERYTHING - His KINGDOM - **Luke 12:32**
 - To the extent we will even sit on Jesus throne with Him - **Revelation 3:21**
 - 4th – The COUNSEL... vs. 7-8
 - I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel - my heart instructs me in the night seasons...
 - I have set the LORD always before me - because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved!
 - COUNSEL – David blessed [piel] the LORD – because He instructed [counsel] him...
 - Even in the DARK times [night seasons] – David always set [piel] the LORD before him...
 - When he trusted in the STRENGTH [right hand] of the LORD – he would NOT be moved!
 - 5th – The JOY... vs. 9
 - Therefore my heart is glad - and my glory rejoices. My flesh also will rest in hope!
 - Because David put his TRUST in the LORD – daily submitting to his MASTER [אֲדֹנָי]
 - DELIGHTING in the SAINTS – while refusing to FOLLOW the example of the wicked...
 - His INHERITANCE became sure – and he was IMMOVABLE in the COUNSEL of the LORD...
 - Which made his heart GLAD – and allowed him to REST in his HOPE!
 - HOPE in who – HOPE in Jesus – who took a FOOL and made him UPRIGHT!
- **3RD – THE PROPHECY... vs. 10-11**
 - 1st – The GRAVE... vs. 10
 - For You will not leave my soul in Sheol - nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption!
 - The idea of the resurrection was a NEW TESTAMENT revelation...
 - Yet here David says you will NOT leave my SOUL in SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל]
 - The LORD would not let His HOLY one [קָדוֹשׁ] – the FAITHFUL one – see DEATH!
 - Peter quoted...
 - On the day of PENTECOST – Peter quoted this verse – **Acts 2:27**
 - He pointed out David wrote the Psalm – but David was dead and buried...
 - The tomb of David was still there in Jerusalem for all to see...
 - The Psalm could NOT be referring to David - he was NOT resurrected...
 - David wrote prophesying about the Messiah...
 - God would not leave the Messiah in hell – or let His body rot in the grave!
 - The resurrection is the MOST IMPORTANT part of the Gospel message...

- Because if Jesus is NOT risen – then there is NO hope – **I Corinthians 15:14**
 - If we only have this life to live - then there are NO consequences for our actions...
 - There is NO right - there is NO wrong - there is NO heaven - there is NO hell...
 - We mind as well live it up - and have all the FUN we can...
 - Because when it is over - there is NOTHING - we cease to exist...
 - Much of the world lives by this doctrine - as if there are NO consequences...
 - Unfortunately for them - Jesus is RISEN - therefore death is NOT the end!
- o 2nd – The VICTORY... vs. 11
- You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy.
 - At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore!
 - You will CAUSE [hiphil] me to SEE – the PATH [reason] for this life!
 - When we UNDERSTAND that there is a RESURRECTION – that this LIFE is NOT the end...
 - We realize our JOY – does not come from anything here – it is in the PRESENCE of the LORD...
 - And we will live our lives with the focus on ETERNITY...
 - Where we will experience the SWEET fellowship forevermore with our God!