

## PSALM 26:1-12

### CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"God's severity is that of unswerving right."

**(Ps. 26:1) Judge me, O LORD,** is a solemn appeal to the just tribunal of the heart-searching God. The writer's circumstances warrant this, in that he was wrongly charged. Worried and worn by injustice, the innocent flies from false accusers to the throne of Eternal Right.

**I have trusted also in the LORD.** Faith is the root and sap of integrity. Those who lean on the Lord are sure to walk in righteousness. David knew that God's covenant had given him the crown. Therefore, he took no indirect or illegal means to secure it. He would not slay his enemy in the cave (1 Sam. 24:4); he would not permit his troops to kill Saul as Saul slept unguarded on the plain (1 Sam. 26:8). Faith will work hard for the Lord and in the Lord's way. Yet faith will not so much as lift a finger to fulfill the devices of unrighteous cunning. Rebecca acted out a great falsehood to fulfill the Lord's decree in favor of Jacob (Gen. 27:5-17). This was unbelief. Abraham left it to the Lord to fulfill His purposes and took the knife to slay his son (Gen. 22:6). This was faith. Faith trusts God to accomplish His decrees. Why should I steal? God has promised to supply my need. Why should I avenge my enemies? The Lord has taken up my cause. Confidence in God is a

most effective security against sin.

**I shall not slide.** The way is slippery, like walking on ice. Faith keeps me from slipping. Doubtful ways will eventually cause us to fall. Yet the ways of honesty, though often rough, are always safe. We cannot trust in God if we walk crookedly. Straight paths and simple faith bring the pilgrims happily to the journey's end.

**(Ps. 26:2) The psalmist** was so innocent that he unconditionally submitted to any form of examination. **Examine me, O LORD.** Look me through and through, make a minute survey, put the question to me, and cross-examine my evidence.

**Prove me.** Put me on trial again. See if I would follow such wicked designs as my enemies impute to me. **Try my reins and my heart.** Try me, as metals are assayed in the furnace. See whether I love murder, treason, and deceit. This is a bold appeal. It shows a solemn and complete conviction of innocence. These expressions teach the thoroughness of divine judgment and the necessity of being profoundly sincere, lest we are found wanting at the end. Our enemies are severe with the severity of spite. David endures without fear. God's severity is that of unswerving right. Who will stand against such a trial? The sweet singer asks, "Who

can stand before His cold?" (Ps. 147:17).

We may well enquire, "Who can stand before the heat of His justice?" (*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

**Was it bold on David's part to ask the Lord to examine, prove and try the reins of his heart** (Ps. 26:2)?

**Why is this also necessary for us to do?**

Ps. 17:3    Ps. 18:36    Ps. 37:31