

## RESIDENTS OF HEAVEN

John Edwards

Psalm 15 asks: "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" (v. 1). The answer:

**"HE THAT WALKETH UPRIGHTLY"** (v. 2). To walk uprightly is to live blamelessly, with integrity. The wise man pointed out: "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known" (Prov. 10:9). "Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once" (Prov. 28:18).

**"WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS"** (v. 2). To work righteousness is to do God's commandments, "...for all thy commandments are righteousness" (Ps. 119:172). Peter preached, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35).

**"SPEAKETH THE TRUTH IN HIS HEART"** (v. 2). God's people are "...children that will not lie..." (Is. 63:8). Among "...the things that ye shall do..." in the word of the Lord to Zechariah is: "Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour..." (Zech. 8:16).

**"BACKBITETH NOT WITH HIS TONGUE"** (v. 3). To backbite is to slander. "...he that uttereth a slander, is a fool" (Prov. 10:18). Psalm 101:5, "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off...."

**"NOR DOETH EVIL TO HIS NEIGHBOUR"** (v. 3). It is taught in both Old and New Testaments: "...thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself..." (Lev. 19:18; Mt. 22:39; Jas. 2:8). "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour..." (Rom. 13:10).

**"NOR TAKETH UP A REPROACH AGAINST HIS NEIGHBOUR"** (v. 3). To take up a reproach against one's neighbour is to cast a slur on, discredit, bring shame on, or insult. Proverbs 3:29, "Devise not evil against thy neighbour..." Proverbs 11:9, "An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour...." Proverbs 25:18, "A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow."

**"IN WHOSE EYES A VILE PERSON IS CONTEMNED"** (v. 4). He despises a reprobate. Psalm 101:4, "A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person."

**"HE HONoureth THEM THAT FEAR THE LORD"** (v. 4). Many have this backwards: they

honour the wicked and despise the righteous. Psalm 119:63, "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts."

**"HE THAT SWEARETH TO HIS OWN HURT, AND CHANGETH NOT"** (v. 4). He keeps his word, whatever the cost. He makes firm commitments and does not renege on his promise. He keeps his vow even when it hurts. In regard to vows, the law said: "He shall not alter it, nor change it, a good for a bad, or a bad for a good..." (Lev. 27:10).

**"HE THAT PUTTETH NOT OUT HIS MONEY TO USURY"** (v. 5). Proverbs 28:8, "He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor."

**"NOR TAKETH REWARD AGAINST THE INNOCENT"** (v. 5). Exodus 23:8, "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous."

"...He that doeth these things shall never be moved" (v. 5). This is the kind of character which will keep us out of hell and cause us to be received into heaven.

## ON WHOM GOD WILL HAVE MERCY

Nicolas Edwards

Romans 9:15-16 says, "*For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*" No matter how much we will, or how hard we try, we cannot receive God's mercy, of our own will or effort. It is "*God that sheweth mercy*"! God has the right to show mercy to whom He wants, upon whatever terms He desires. The person on whom God will have mercy is the person who:

**LOVES GOD AND KEEPS HIS COMMANDMENTS.** Exodus 20:6, "*And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*"

**WALKS BEFORE GOD WITH ALL THEIR HEART.** 1 Kings 8:23, "*And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee*

*with all their heart.*"

### TRUSTS IN THE LORD.

Psalm 32:10, "*Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.*"

### FEARS GOD.

Psalm 103:11, "*For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.*"

### DEVICES GOOD.

Proverbs 14:22, "*Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.*"

### CONFESSES AND

**FORSAKES HIS SINS.** Proverbs 28:13, "*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*"

**FORSAKES WICKEDNESS AND RETURNS UNTO THE LORD.** Isaiah 55:7, "*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*"

### IS MERCIFUL.

Mathew 5:7, "*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*"

**COMES BOLDLY.** Hebrews 4:16, "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*"

**KEEPS SELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD AND LOOKS.** Jude 21, "*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*"

**RENDS THEIR HEART AND TURNS TO THE LORD.** Joel 2:12-13, "*Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil.*"

This is the person upon whom God will have mercy. It is up to us, of our own free will, to be this person and meet the terms God has placed upon mercy! Are you the one on whom God will have mercy?

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### Assembling At:

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### Assembling Times:

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