

PSALMS 26 and 27

How very few of the sons of men can invoke God's judgment in the language the Psalmist uses in this 26th psalm! How few will dare to examine their inward thoughts, much less say that the loving-kindness of God is ever before their eyes! If, then, we dare not apply any self-commendation to our past conduct, let us, in all humility, strive to walk innocently in the future. Let it be our delight not only to praise Yahweh in the congregations of our fellow Christians, but to meditate day and night upon the manifold blessings we enjoy.

Psalm 26 *A Psalm of David.*

- 1 Vindicate me, O YAHWEH, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in YAHWEH without wavering.
- 2 Prove me, O YAHWEH, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.
- 4 I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O YAHWEH,
7 proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- 8 O YAHWEH, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.
- 9 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,
10 in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- 12 My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless YAHWEH.

We read of David's exuberant declaration of faith in the 27th psalm, and a constant desire to dwell in the house of Yahweh forever.

Psalm 27 *A Psalm of David.*

- 1 YAHWEH is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
YAHWEH is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

- though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
- 4 One thing have I asked of YAHWEH, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of YAHWEH all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of YAHWEH and to inquire in his temple.
- 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
- 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to YAHWEH.
- 7 Hear, O YAHWEH, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, YAHWEH, do I seek."
9 Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
- 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but YAHWEH will take me in.
- 11 Teach me your way, O YAHWEH, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
- 13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of YAHWEH in the land of the living!
14 Wait for YAHWEH; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for YAHWEH!

PRAYER

O Lord God, you have been our help, our light, and our salvation. Do not leave us nor forsake us when we are assaulted by enemies from without or by temptations from within, but lead us in the way we should go. Make us take delight in prayer and praise. Endue our souls with faith, love, and holy penitence, that our hearts and hands, our souls and bodies, may walk soberly, righteously, and godly in this present life, and in the world to come may have everlasting life through the merits of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.