

# PSALM 101 vs 1

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The ancient headline for this psalm reads: A Psalm of David. This is just such a Psalm as the man after God's own heart would compose when he was about to become king of Israel. It is David all over, direct, resolute, devout; there is no trace of policy or vacillation – the Lord has appointed him to be king, and he knows it, therefore he purposes in all things to behave as becomes a monarch whom the Lord himself has chosen – Charles Spurgeon.

If we call this **THE PSALM OF PIOUS RESOLUTIONS**, we will remember more. After songs of praise, a Psalm of practice not only makes variety, but comes most fittingly. We never praise the Lord better than when we do those things which are pleasing in His sight. **Mercy = getting what we do not deserve.**



## A Psalm of David,

**<sup>1</sup> I sing of Your mercy and justice: O LORD, to You I sing praise** / he would extol both, the love and the severity, the sweet and the bitter, which the Lord mingled in his experience; he would admire the justice and the goodness of the Lord. Such a song would lead to good sense resolutions as to his own conduct, for that which we admire in our superiors we naturally endeavor to imitate. In this broken world, David aspired to the higher standard. David's resolve was excellent, though his practice did not indicate it. Alas! He was not always wise or perfect, but it was well that it was in his heart. He was in pursuit of the ways of God; and he who does not even resolve to do well is likely to do very ill – Charles Spurgeon.

**<sup>2</sup> I heed the way that is sound. O when will You come to me?** / David feels the need not just for God's help, but for His presence, so he may be instructed, and made fit for the discharge of his high calling.

**I will walk in my house with a sound heart** / our first duties are to our own home. We must have a whole heart at home, or we will not keep a whole way abroad. Do you sing in the choir, and sin in the chamber? Are you a saint abroad and a demon at home? What we are at home, we are indeed. He cannot be a good king, whose palace is the hangout of vice, nor he a true saint whose home is a scene of strife.

**<sup>3</sup> No worthless thing will set before my eyes: I hate the work of those who fall away;**

**it will not fasten its grip on me.**

**<sup>4</sup> A crooked heart will depart from me: I will not know evil.**

**<sup>5</sup> Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy: the one with a snooty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure** / to give one's neighbor a stab in the dark is one of the most atrocious crimes, and cannot be too heartily condemned. What is evil, I will not delight in it, aim at it, or endure it; I will not look upon it with any pleasure. Those who walk in a crooked way, were not viewed with indifference, but with utmost scorn and abhorrence. Hatred of sin is a good sentinel for the door of virtue.

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There are people in courts who walk in a very crooked way; leaving the high road of integrity, and these, by short cuts, twists and turns, are supposed to accomplish work for their masters which simple honest hearts are not competent to undertake, but David and His greater son, would not employ such, he would pay no secret money for services, he detested the practice of men who deviate from doing right. King David would lop the good tree of his realm... of all such superfluous boughs.

➡ **6 My eyes are on those full of faith, they will dwell with me: he who walks in a sound way, will serve me** / he would seek them out, engage their services and promote them to a noble occupation, better than listening to clever flatterers. What I wish myself to be; I desire my agents to be.

➡ **7 No one who dwells in my house works to deceive: no one who tells lies will continue in my presence** / liars are obnoxious; he could not tell what a deceitful man might be doing, what plots he was contriving, what mischief he was brewing, so he resolved to keep him out of his house. Cheats in the market are bad enough, but deceivers at our own table we will not bear.

➡ **8 Every morning, I destroy all the guilty evil doers of the earth; to cut off from the city of the LORD all those who do crime** / actually, this song should give much comfort, that God each morning destroys the worst of earth; and just imagine if He didn't. He knows some fool will take their place tomorrow; but that leaves us at peace knowing He gives us our daily bread and then goes and knocks on many doors of fools, saying enough of you! I'll gladly leave that assignment to Him and the police He has authorized. At the outset David sought to mirror the govt of God, he saw what the Lord saw and promptly dealt out justice to the worthless, he would leave them no rest, but make them leave their no good evil, or feel the lash of the law. All who are discovered and convicted, the law had its course with them. Like the Lord, he would do it early; he would lose no time and spare no pains, he would zealously promote the reformation of manners and defeat of vice – Matthew Henry, 1662-1714.

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