

Review from Sunday's Message for Personal Meditation:

- i. Psalms 26: Message points for meditation:
 - a. ***Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*** [Gen. 6:9]
 - i. ***Noah was a righteous man – he believed God.*** [Heb. 11:7]
 - ii. ***...blameless among the people of his generation – by faith, he performed what God required of him.*** [Heb. 1:7]
 - iii. ***...he walked with God*** – he walked in the obedience that comes by faith, keeping in step with God. [Rom. 1:5; Gal. 5:16, 25]
 - b. In ***Psalms 26:1-3***, David asks God to examine his heart and mind.
 - i. ***“Examine me”*** is not a request to see if we have earned or achieved our righteousness by our integrity and blamelessness apart from faith. It is a prayer of faith in God's ability to judge us righteously, - and a prayer of dependency upon God's grace, faithfulness and mercy.
 - ii. ***Examine me*** [26:1-3] and ***show me mercy*** [26:11-12] are the bookends of the Psalm.
 - c. David's self-examination revealed that he was not negatively influenced by pretenders, but positively influenced by recalling God's wondrous deeds, praising Him, thanking Him, and worshipping Him in His presence. [Ps. 26:4-8]
 - i. Pretenders are detrimental to faith development.
 - ii. Thanksgiving, praise and worship are essential for faith development.
 - iii. Singular faith in God is essential for progressing in integrity and blamelessness as a Christian.
 - d. At the conclusion of the ***Psalm*** [26:9-12], David, again, reveals his dependence upon God's grace for his stability and security in God alone. David knows that redemption and mercy are necessary for standing on solid ground and for praising God.

Questions for Reflection, Application and Fellowship:

- i. Have you ever tried to throw away a garbage can? Have you ever tried to be a person of integrity without a commitment to a singular purpose?
 - a. Is it possible for a pagan to be a person of integrity – to live consistently within their worldview?
 - b. How is it possible for a Christian to be a person of integrity?

- c. David's purpose was to "*trust in the Lord without wavering*" and to "*walk continually in His truth*." Notice his confidence wasn't a self-confidence, but a confidence in the Lord and His truth.

- ii. **1 Corinthians 5:9-13** reveals that to disassociate with the immoral people of this world would require that we leave this world. The text goes on to say that it would be those who claim to believe in God but live as though they don't believe in God whom should be avoided.
 - a. What goes wrong when Christians seek to judge the people of this world (God's responsibility) and fail to judge one another (our responsibility from God)?
 - b. What goes wrong when Christians disassociate with the people of this world and associate only with themselves?
 - c. What goes right when Christians hold one another accountable to the gospel, and seek to communicate the gospel, in love, to the people of the world?
 - d. How important is being righteous and blameless to living in fellowship with one another? [1John 1:5-10]
How important is being righteous and blameless to living as lights in this world?